

## Defiant P&O flies crews to Holland to man strike-bound freight ferries

# Lorry drivers' blockade halts Channel ports

By David Sapsed and Tim Jones

P&O yesterday flew a party of crewmen to Flushing in The Netherlands to prepare three strike-bound freight ferries for service as it signalled it had no intention of compromising in its four-month-old dispute with the National Union of Seamen.

The move came as lorry drivers blockaded Dover and Calais, Europe's busiest ferry ports, causing unparalleled chaos to Continental trade and traffic.

The two French seamen's unions, the Communist-led CGT and the socialist-affiliated CFTD, also promised to "black" British ships in support of the NUS.

At Dover, the Harbour Board closed down the port after lorry drivers, whose frustration over delays have been building up for weeks,

blocked entrances to the Western and Eastern Docks. Last night, senior officials of the Board were trying to persuade the drivers to move their vehicles.

At least 400 trucks were reported to be blockading Calais after drivers had rejected a peace formula put forward by SNCF, the French railway company which operates half of the Sealink services to Dover.

Mr Armand Touboul, manager of Sealink Calais said the port was blockaded with all

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three ferries serving Dover unable to move. He said the 400 lorry drivers involved were calling on all sides in the dispute to sit down and find a solution. "They seem very determined", he said.

The blockade came as representatives of the Dover strikers were last night fighting a rearguard action to prevent their colleagues from other ports accepting the "final offer" from the rival Sealink ferry company and leaving them effectively isolated.

As members of the NUS national ferry ports committee, representing shop stewards from every port in Britain, arrived at TUC headquarters in London to discuss the deal, the deadline for acceptance set by Sealink had passed without any action being taken.

Although Sealink had told the union it had only until yesterday morning to accept the offer of employing 450 of the sacked crew on a temporary casual basis, it was clear that the company was waiting the result of last night's meeting before taking any action.

Sealink, which has indicated it will dismiss its 2,300 crew members unless they agree to "rationalise" and return to work, said it was proceeding with contingency plans but refused to discuss what they were.

Under the deal proposed by Sealink, the company would employ the men to run two additional cross channel ferries which would allow the union to regain its £2.8 million assets, sequestered by the High Court, by calling off its unlawful secondary action and purging its contempt of court.

A senior member of the

union said before last night's talks that the members in other ports, whose action has virtually halted all Sealink operations, were becoming increasingly concerned about the strategy being employed by national negotiators.

There was the feeling that it was "diff" to pursue a dispute against P&O on the issue of wages and conditions by effectively crippling the operations of Sealink, its main rival. "There is a growing feeling that we should be helping Sealink as much as possible in order to damage P&O and bring it back to the negotiating table", he said.

It was also felt that NUS seamen who supported the Dover P&O strikers were unable to help financially while they were not being paid, and there was a growing feeling that the dispute has been "hijacked" by the NUS ports committee at Dover who are over-riding any deal Mr Sam MacCloskey, the union's general secretary, has been able to agree with Sealink.

Another reason was that many NUS members, while conceding that the Sealink offer has much to do with commercial considerations, believe that Mr James Sherwood, the head of Sealink, has done all he can to persuade Sir Jeffrey Stirling, his P&O counterpart, to return to the negotiating table.

Last night, the NUS official said: "It could be very tight but in my opinion the Dover representatives will win the day and the national stoppage will continue".

Around Britain yesterday, the tempo of the strike appeared to be picking up again.

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No through road: British lorry drivers blocking the route to Sealink and P&O ferries at Calais yesterday. "They seem very determined," a port official said.

## SAS may face murder charges on IRA deaths

From Tony Dawe, Gibraltar

The SAS members who carried out the killing of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar could face murder charges, Mr Eric Thistlethwaite, the colony's Attorney General, told *The Times* last night.

Mr Thistlethwaite said he would instigate prosecutions if further evidence showed that the terrorists were shot dead as they tried to surrender.

His remarks countered allegations that the Gibraltar authorities were trying to "whitewash" the actions of the SAS troops. He was clearly aware of a concerted campaign by Government sources to justify the shooting after claims on the Thames Television programme, *Death On The Rock*, that the three assassinated members of the IRA put up their hands before shots were fired.

Mr Thistlethwaite's refusal to rule out prosecutions has forced the Gibraltar police to widen their inquiries and to visit Britain to interview holidaymakers who witnessed the killings.

It also explains the continuing uncertainty about a date for the inquest into the three deaths. Mr Thistlethwaite said: "It would prove impossible to hold a fair trial in Gibraltar if all the evidence had been examined in detail at an inquest first."

"I am aware that if I have to bring charges, I should do so before the end of June when the inquest is likely to start. If

the inquest goes ahead, it could return three possible verdicts in this case: an open verdict or one of unlawful killing or justifiable homicide.

"If the jury brought in a verdict of unlawful killing, it would be difficult to pursue in the courts", he said.

If charges are brought, the case would be heard in Gibraltar. The Gibraltar authorities would expect the Ministry of Defence to ensure that the soldiers appeared to face trial.

However, if no charges were brought and the inquest goes ahead, the Gibraltar authorities

Soldier's funeral 2

ties expect the members of the SAS team to give evidence in person. However, efforts will be made to protect their identities, probably by hearing their evidence in camera.

Mr Thistlethwaite, who has taken out an injunction to prevent local radio, television and newspapers from reporting evidence about the killings, said: "It is bad enough trying to assemble an unbiased jury from a possible total of only 6,000 when British television companies and newspapers are producing reconstructions of the events".

His remarks are significant because he has seen statements by members of the SAS team which carried out the killings on March 6. The men were de-briefed by Gibraltar

police after the incident before being flown back to Britain.

The only published evidence to suggest that Mairiad Farrell, leader of the IRA gang, and Danny McCann, a proven killer, were trying to surrender came from Mrs Carmen Proetta in an interview on the Thames Television programme which was supported by a sworn affidavit sent to the Gibraltar coroner.

Mr Thistlethwaite has made two separate appeals for further witnesses in recent weeks.

He said: "I would be glad to hear from some of the witnesses turned up by the media, but I fail to understand why they did not approach the police beforehand."

Six teenagers who told a British newspaper that they saw Sean Savage, the third terrorist, shot in the back and then shot again as he lay on the ground are among those who did not report what they saw to the police.

Mr Thistlethwaite was pleased that a report of his appeal for witnesses in *The Times* had produced results in Britain. "One witness wrote to me to say that he had evidence which could be valuable to the inquest and the Gibraltar police will be seeing him during their visit to Britain."

The officers will also interview a British tourist who suffered a flesh wound from a ricocheting bullet during the shooting.

## Rocard tipped as Chirac prepares his resignation

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The resignation of M Jacques Chirac as Prime Minister of France will be handed in to President Mitterrand this afternoon.

A terse statement to this effect was issued yesterday evening by the defeated candidate in Sunday's presidential election.

Mrs Thatcher last night telephoned President Mitterrand to congratulate him, and also sent him a warmly worded written message. She said she "greatly welcomed" the continuity of leadership and felt that Anglo-French relations had "developed impressively" during his first term.

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tial election. It announced that M Chirac had made a formal request to be received by the President at the Elysee Palace.

There was no immediate response from M Mitterrand, but it is considered certain that the Prime Minister's resignation will be accepted.

After a day spent savouring his historic victory, M Mitterrand must now select a new Prime Minister. All the indications last night were that this would be M Michel Rocard, the former socialist Minister of Agriculture. A decision on

whether to hold new parliamentary elections has not yet emerged.

According to some reports, removal men were already crating up the collection of Chinese antiques displayed in the Prime Minister's office at the Matignon during the past two years of uneasy cohabitation with President Mitterrand.

The morning after his triumph found the re-elected Mitterrand in understandably chipper form after the comprehensive rout of his conservative opponent. "I could feel it in the air, like the rest of France," he observed during the helicopter trip back to Paris from his adopted home town, Chateau-Chinon.

The President insisted there was never any danger that the Chirac camp's last minute coups de theatre with the liberation of hostages in Lebanon and New Caledonia and the return of the Greenpeace saboteur would derail things.

"It turns out they rather overloaded the boat in that last week," he said.

In more serious mood, M Mitterrand indicated that the New Caledonia files were now at the very top of his agenda.

It became clear yesterday that the official date of M Mitterrand's new seven-year term begins at midnight on

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WIN £74,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

With three daily prize winners yesterday (see page 3) Portfolio Accumulator stands unchanged at £74,000. Portfolio offers two chances to win - the daily prize or, if your number is higher than the daily total, the contents of the Accumulator fund.

INGENUITY

INGENUITY, the daily game which tests contestants' wits and wisdom, is now into its second week. Six sets of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, together worth more than £13,000, await the winners. The game is being played over 18 days, with 10 questions a day. Today's round: page 15

IN PART 2

Nestlé defiant

Nestlé will press on with its bid for Rowntree even if it is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Nestlé chairman said. Page 25

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Shoe shop bid

Stead & Simpson, the shoe shop chain, has rejected an £89.45 million bid by Claymont Properties, a property development and retail group. Page 25

Gatting again

Mike Gatting was reappointed captain of England for three one-day internationals and two Tests against the West Indies. Page 48

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## Rebel peers draw poll tax support

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Conservative rebels in the Lords are confident they can muster enough support to force the Government to make further concessions over the community charge.

The peers will table amendments today aimed at basing the level of the charge on ability to pay. These are likely to be supported by all peers on the opposition benches, many independent peers and, they believe, enough Conservative colleagues to defeat the Government.

Lord Denham, the Government Chief Whip in the Lords, has encouraged impressive numbers of Conservatives to protect legislation so far this session. A rebellion supported by at least 20 Conservative peers would be almost certain to defeat his best efforts.

Support for changes to take account of ability to pay was actively given by most of the 50 peers who spoke in last night's second reading debate on the Local Government Finance Bill, enacting the poll tax proposals.

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on the Local Government Finance Bill, enacting the poll tax proposals.

Lord Chelwood, formerly the Conservative MP Sir Tufin Beamish, plans to table the main amendment today. It will require Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to lay regulations before the Bill can come into force which will take account of people's ability to pay both below and above the rebate level.

## Bank fails to peg sterling

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound surged higher yesterday, in spite of an attempt by the Bank of England to restrain it by selling sterling. It rose by three pence to just above DM3.16, and by 1.4 cents to \$1.8805.

The pound's rise - largely due to a report by a US securities house - raises the possibility of a further cut in base rates and mortgage rates.

Sterling's rise prompted market talk that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, was about to resign. Paradoxically, this helped the pound rise further, as he is regarded as the guardian of sterling stability. The speculation was denied by the Treasury.

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## Air control delays infuriate BA

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

British Airways has sent MPs an unpublished memorandum severely criticizing the performance of the Civil Aviation Authority's air traffic control system.

The airline has told the all-party Commons transport committee, which is inquiring into air safety, that the system has become "increasingly inefficient". That would enable European cities such as Amsterdam or Frankfurt to usurp London's pre-eminent position as an "international crossroads of air transport".

In particular it suggests that frequent delays caused by the system's shortcomings are costing the airlines huge sums which are having to be passed on to passengers.

It says that nearly 20 per cent of its short haul flights

were delayed at Heathrow last summer, as were more than 10 per cent of long haul flights and about 7 per cent of shuttle flights. In 1984 the figures were just over 10 per cent for

Pilots demoted 2

short haul flights, and under 5 per cent for long haul and shuttle flights.

The airline says the air traffic control system was safe at present but as it became increasingly inefficient "then mistakes occur which in turn leads to concerns over air safety".

The airline says the National Air Traffic Service should be re-equipped with the latest computer technology, manned by the "highest calibre of computer expertise".

## Mystical Los Angeles quaking over prophecy

From Charles Bremner, New York

Forget for the moment what the stars say about Mr Gorbachev's mood in May - the planets are lining up for more urgent business this week and their target is, as usual, California.

In the land where the mystical has long mingled with the material and no one was remotely surprised by news of the Reagan star-gazing, tens of thousands of citizens are bracing themselves for the Big One.

This, for believers, is the week of the great Los Angeles quake which was prophesied by the 16th century seer Nostradamus and interpreted in a 1981 television film by Orson Wells. Non-believers may scoff, but the Big One has disrupted life for thousands in southern California. The airlines report booming business on departing flights, children are being kept from

The White House accused Mr Donald Regan, the former White House Chief of Staff, of seeking to exploit the presidency and the Reagan "for personal self-interest" with his book about Mrs Nancy Reagan's use of astrology. But Mr Regan was unrepentant. "I was made the victim, so now the victim tells his side of the story," he said. Page 6

school and the more nervous types are packing up their homes and heading for the hills.

"There are lots of people out there who are genuinely fearful," said Ed Krupp, director of the Griffith Observatory. "They're not crazy. They're intelligent."

Callers are jamming the three quake telephone hotlines set up by the state observatory to calm jittery citizens. "The planets will not be in the

position that Nostradamus says. There is no alignment in May," the hotline said yesterday in a technical rebuttal before pointing out that "even if the planets were aligned there would be no effect".

Despite such assurances, local polls show one in 20 people are seriously worried and Extend-A-Life, a firm which calls itself "the largest purveyor of disaster supplies in America", is reporting a 10-fold leap in the sales of survival kits which include purified water, high-calorie cookies and hand-cranked stereos.

For many psychics, the Big One is based on "unscientific" calculations and is being used by the media to discredit what has recently become very serious business in America.

"I am a serious person," said Mrs Joan Quigley, the Reagan "spiritual counsellor" in a defence of her credentials yesterday.

"I am a Vassar graduate and I have a disciplined and accessible mind."

Mrs Quigley, a San Francisco heiress, is typical of the new-style mystical movement, known generically as the New Age, which spread from California in the early 1980s and has taken firm root in New York and other big cities as the country has developed a new interest in the paranormal.

According to a survey by the University of Chicago last year, 67 per cent of Americans claim to have undergone "psychic experiences".

The New Age covers an eclectic spectrum of "belief systems". These include astrology, psychotherapy, tarot-reading, dinosaurs, healing by crystal power, medieval magic and ancient oriental religion.

The chief apostle of what has

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## The King Size from Dunhill

20

London-Paris-New York

**DUNHILL**

The fine lettering confirms the fact. London, Paris, New York - or indeed anywhere you travel, Dunhill King Size is renowned for its distinctive quality. Created by master blenders, employing care, patience and infinite skill, Dunhill King Size offers exceptional smoothness.

**dunhill**

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government  
Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES  
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers



## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Business studies college at Oxford

Oxford University is preparing to run its own school of management. The university already funds joint degrees in engineering and management and materials science and management with the independent Templeton College. Now Templeton is to be approached with a view to creating a new college within the university offering Master of Business Administration degrees and other qualifications.

Templeton's council yesterday welcomed the proposals and the college seems set to become the equivalent of a fully participating part of the university, which has three representatives on the college council.

A committee chaired by Sir Claus Moser, Warden of Wadham College, has recommended phasing in the new school of management, beginning with specialist one-year MBA courses in financial, information, human resource and public sector management. It will also cater for part-time students.

## Baker's car attacked

Seven sixth form college students were arrested yesterday after an attack on the car of Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science. Two hundred students surrounded Mr Baker's car, kicking it and hanging on the roof, as he left the Richmond Tertiary College where he had been visiting a computer exhibition. Three students were held at the college and the other four were arrested at Twickenham police station where they were protesting about the earlier arrests. All seven were charged with public order offences and released. Mr Baker was said to be unharmed.

## Natalie case remand

A woman aged 44 was remanded in custody for a week by Cardiff magistrates, accused of abducting Natalie Horrell last week. Delia McCall, of Garswood, Merseyside, is accused of taking the five-month-old child in a department store in Cardiff. A youth who was being questioned by police about the baby's disappearance has been released without charge.

## £90m defence order

The Ministry of Defence yesterday awarded a £90 million contract for a computerized battlefield system to control all surface-to-air weapons to Easams, a GEC company based in Frimley, Surrey. It will create 200 engineering jobs. The air defence command information system (ADCIS) will be deployed in northern Germany and should be in service in about four years. It will provide continuous information on whether fighter aircraft flying over the battlefield are friendly or hostile and will control the firing of surface-to-air weapon systems.

## Jail post for ex-priest

A former priest is to take over as governor of Peterhead prison, north-east Scotland, the scene of a damaging riot and hostage taking last September. Dr Andrew Coyle, at present governor of Greenock prison, will assume his new post next month. Dr Coyle, aged 43, was ordained a priest in 1968 after studying at the Royal Scots College in Valladolid, Spain. He said: "I am conscious I have been asked to govern what is arguably the most difficult prison in Scotland".

## Better Britain cash

The Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council have for the first time committed funds to a campaign run by a commercial organization. Mr Bob Reid, chairman of Shell UK, announced yesterday that the commission was providing £50,000 and the NCC £20,000 towards the company's Better Britain Campaign. The money is to be used for projects of specific nature conservation interests. Shell is to spend £1 million during the next three years on expanding the campaign.

## TV campaign starts to reduce Ulster job bias

A £100,000 advertising campaign to cut job discrimination against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland was launched in Belfast yesterday.

The move by the Fair Employment Agency comes in the wake of discussions between the British and Irish governments in Dublin last week.

The programme of television advertising, which began last night, concentrates on the problems of "indirect discrimination". Mr Bob Cooper, Fair Employment Agency chairman, said: "The obstacle

towards achieving equal opportunity in jobs is now not deliberate discrimination by employers. But there is still a problem with employment practices which have an unintentional discriminatory impact."

Fair employment was discussed last week when Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, met ministers in Dublin.

Irish government sources said that a package to combat discrimination against Catholics had almost been finalized.

## Ridley faces Tory rage on easing Green Belt

By David Walker

When Mr Nicholas Ridley addresses the Bow Group tonight on the subject of Green Belts and development, he will be following in the footsteps of his ill-fated predecessor Lord Jenkins of Roding.

It is believed that Mr Ridley wants to let the bricks army into the Darenth Valley in Kent; commentators date the fall from grace as Secretary of State for the Environment, of the former Patrick Jenkin to the day in 1984, when he too broached the idea of altering the criteria which govern where builders can build in the green counties around the capital.

Patrick Jenkin talked liberaliza-

tion of the Green Belt; within months he retreated with his tail between his legs. Nicholas Ridley is surely made of sterner stuff.

The Secretary of State is thinking again about the Green Belt, only four months after his department issued a restatement of the principles behind control of development in the countryside around the conurbations, because of a set of figures he received in February estimating the likely growth in demand for housing in the South-east.

The projections were startling: the 6.6 million households in the South-east in 1986 are set to increase by 14 per cent by the end of the century; an extra million flats

and houses would be needed to accommodate the growth. Taken at their face value - which the private builders, a powerful lobbying organization under a Conservative administration certainly did - they are enough to give a minister nightmares.

Mr Ridley did not have nightmares; he passed the figures to the South-east Regional Planning Consortium (Serplan), the voluntary grouping of councils in the London area, and will next month hear their response.

Those figures are bare estimates. To them have to be added the push on demand for land for housing and industrial development arising from the opening of the Channel

tunnel and the expansion of Stansted. It begins to look, at least to the Secretary of State, an abdication of responsibility not to question once again some of the assumptions behind Green Belts.

Few aspects of planning are less well understood. Green Belts were conceived by Conservative ministers to check the sprawl of London and the other conurbations and to prevent towns merging.

But the earlier idea of a cordon sanitaire around the city has grown (there are now 1.2 million acres classified as Green Belt around London) into a blanket prohibition on development of the most desirable land in the country.

The pressures on land have

recently become pressures on Mr Ridley. They include:

- applications for private sector towns/villages in Hampshire and Essex;
- the Government's desire to capitalize on the value of substantial holdings of land by the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Transport and the NHS;
- the success of the M25 in attracting retail development.

Even the planners have begun to question the way Green Belt land has become a totem. The best hope for the Green Belt is, paradoxically, more not less planning: a fuller presentation than the Government has yet given of where the inevitable development is to be channelled.

## Civil Service union rejects strike call

By Roland Rudd

The Civil and Public Services Association yesterday rejected a Militant-backed call for a strike ballot over pay and voted by a clear majority to open immediate negotiations with the Treasury to establish a long-term pay settlement.

Mr John Ellis, the union's general secretary, described the vote at the association's annual conference in Bournemouth as a clear mandate to accept the Treasury's revised pay offer of 4.5 per cent or £5.50 a week, which ever is greater.

He said that the Militant Tendency, which had controlled the union for more than a year, was a spent force.

The Treasury said it was delighted that the union had voted for negotiations without threatening further strike action, and that it would be happy to renegotiate a new settlement.

Mr John Macreadie, deputy general secretary and a Militant supporter, described the vote as a "temporary setback" and predicted the membership would reject the Treasury's pay offer and return the militant Broad Left to power within a year.

A motion instructing the incoming national executive committee to undertake "urgent and serious negotiations with the Treasury" to make "the issue of a long-term pay settlement the number one priority" was passed by 75,075

to 56,803 in a card vote representing the branches.

The vote came as a surprise to both the left and right. The conference, which had been dominated by Broad Left activists, also voted against a motion calling for a strike ballot in June by 448 to 337 and instead instructed the executive to "obtain the maximum from the Treasury by way of negotiations".

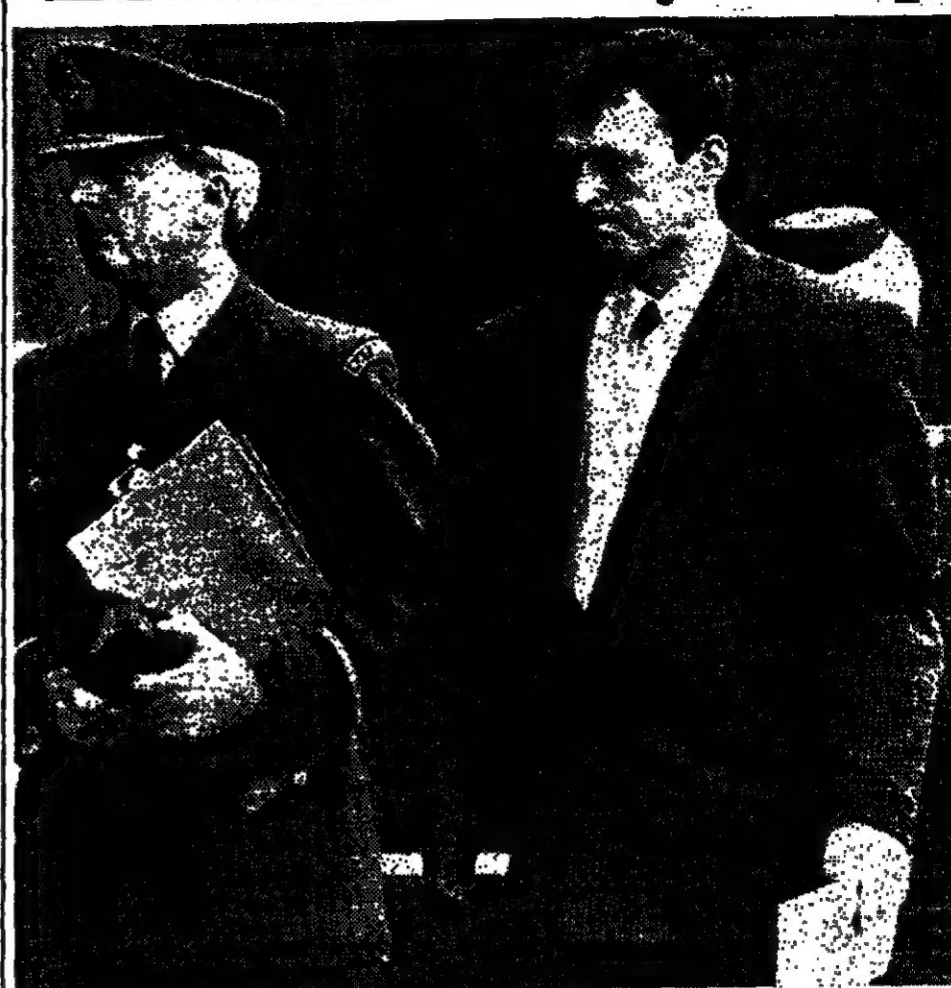
Mr Ellis immediately interpreted the vote as a vindication of his opposition to strike action. The union has been involved in four disputes during the past year and had hallooed part of its membership six times on whether to take industrial action.

The vote means the Treasury will be able to achieve its aims of long-term pay settlements, which will inevitably include forms of regional and performance pay throughout Whitehall.

Mr Terry Adams, a Militant executive member, argued in favour of accepting that local pay additions were a *fait accompli* and that all grades in the union should receive the payments.

That was opposed by his allies in the Broad Left, the Socialist Workers' Party, which tabled a motion calling for the executive to fail to ballot the members on all-out strike action immediately after the union's pay conference last December.

## IRA condemned by bishop



Richard Garth, who was injured in the IRA attack in the Netherlands last week, at the funeral of his colleague Ian Shimmer yesterday.

A Roman Catholic bishop yesterday condemned the "savage tactics" of the IRA when he spoke at the funeral of one of the three young men murdered in The Netherlands eight days ago.

The Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Right Rev Joseph Gray, said there could be no justification for the "horrific fashion" in which Senior Aircraftman Ian Shimmer, aged 20, of Wincoburn, Cheshire, met his death at the hands of a terrorist assassin.

Senior Aircraftman Shimmer died in a hail of bullets from a machine-gun as he was about to

drive away from a public house in Roermond.

Dutch police yesterday offered a 100,000 guilders reward (about £28,000) for information leading to the arrest of the killers of the three British servicemen. It is the largest offer by police in The Netherlands, according to the National Police spokesman, Mr Louis Steens.

He said police investigating the bombing and shooting attacks on May 1 have interviewed more than 300 people but have no specific leads.

## Moore is asking for £200m NHS cash

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, is still pressing for an extra £200 million for the National Health Service to avert another spate of ward closures later this year.

In spite of the money given for the generous pay rises for nurses last month, Mr Moore has told the Treasury that more money is needed now to avoid a repeat of last winter's politically embarrassing "crisis" when the Government had to make an emergency injection of £100 million.

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, who has just agreed to find £750 million from the contingency reserve for the nurses' and doctors' pay awards, is yet to be convinced that another injection is necessary.

Treasury officials privately argue that because the health service crisis has lost its high profile, the Government can afford to wait till the next public expenditure round before increasing funding.

Yesterday both the Department of Health and Social Security and Downing Street officially dismissed reports that any extra money was on the table.

DHSS officials have publicly admitted that hospital services faced a shortfall of £95 million in 1987-88 because of overcommitting their budgets. They argue that unless the emergency injection is made recurrent and there is some compensation for the full year effect of the sum, there will be another outcry in the autumn.

Yesterday, Whitehall sources denied that Mr Moore had been "bought off" by the pay award and said that he had been consistently pressing for extra funding during the past few months.

An inter-departmental Government working party is examining proposals to give local authorities the leading role in providing community care for the old, infirm and mentally ill.

Sir Roy Griffiths, the Prime Minister's adviser on health, said that the working party is expected to report within the next few months, before the Prime Minister completes her review of the health service.

## Conservative division on Scottish devolution

By Nicholas Wood Political Correspondent

Deep divisions among Conservatives over Scottish devolution and future government policy were exposed yesterday in conflicting prescriptions from the right and the left of the party.

A report by the Centre for Policy Studies, the think-tank founded jointly by the Prime Minister in the mid-1970s, urged ministers to reject even limited home rule and clip the wings of the Scottish Office.

However, a document from the Tory Reform Group gave a warning that the break-up of the United Kingdom could be the price of further Conservative failure in Scotland. It called for the removal of the "the

stigma of supporting the able and strong at the expense of the weak".

The reports came after the Tory rebuff in district elections and on the eve of the party's Scottish conference at which former MPs and disaffected activists will be passing the case for an assembly. The Conservatives slumped to third place behind the nationalists in the popular vote in Scottish council elections and lost 21 seats in their worst performance.

The Centre for Policy Studies report calls for a firm rejection of legislative devolution, an inquiry into the "haphazard" system by which more than 30 Whitehall powers have been transferred to the Scottish Office and the full extension of Thatcherite

policies to Scotland as part of a process of "positive unionism".

The three authors, who include Mr Alistair Cooke, deputy director of the research department at Conservative Central Office, argue that the Scottish Office, should, at the very least, integrate responsibility for economic and industrial affairs into a free market nationwide approach.

They claim that the Tories have played into the hands of opponents by making a virtue of the fact that public spending in Scotland is 28 per cent higher than in England.

This had led to the marginalization of Scotland from national politics. After the loss of more than half of Scottish Tory MPs, it raised the

spectre of "second-rate" government as an overloaded ministerial team at St Andrew's House, drawn from just 10 MPs, struggles to cope with many areas of responsibility.

Mr Malcolm MacKenzie, vice-chairman of the Tory Reform Group in Scotland, blames the right of the party for lumbering Toryism with a reputation as "materialistic, class-based and fundamentally selfish".

*Making Unionism Positive* (Liam Fox, Mark Mayall and Alistair Cooke; Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL; £2.95 inc p&p).

*Scottish Toryism, Identity and Consciousness* (Malcolm MacKenzie; Tory Reform Group, Gayfere House, 22/23 Gayfere Street, London SW1P 3HP; £5).

## British Airways pay deal

## 75 B-Cal pilots demoted after merger

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways has resolved a nine-month dispute over pilots' pay and conditions in a deal which includes the demotion of 75 captains.

The British Air Line Pilots Association has accepted a proposal which demotes the 75, former British Caledonian captains, to first officer and which also means that up to 800 British Airways co-pilots are paid less than their opposite numbers from British Caledonian.

British Airways knew that one of the main problems in the merger between the two airlines would be resolving the differences in conditions between pilots. The average British Airways pilot served about 17 years with the airline before being promoted to captain compared with 10

years or less for pilots with British Caledonian.

British Caledonian pilots were also paid up to £10,000 a year more than their counterparts in British Airways, with an average differential of around £5,000.

Under the complex deal the 2,500 pilots in the combined fleet are treated alike in seniority, which is why 75 British Caledonian captains will have to accept demotion.

Cutting their salary would be unfair, the association said, and British Airways agreed to pay those demoted a lump sum of between £5,000 and £6,000 for two years to "soften the blow". This means that although they are now co-pilots they are still getting more than someone with similar seniority who has always been with British Airways.

Those affected in British Airways put pressure on the association to win changes in the terms but were eventually convinced that it was the only fair way of solving the problem.

More than 200 direct entrants who joined British Airways with the promise that they would quickly advance are aggrieved because the influx of former British Caledonian staff means they will have to wait much longer.

Captain Mike Wallis, chairman of the pilots' association, said last night: "All the problems are now resolved as far as we are concerned. It is our assessment that the captains who have been demoted should be back in their own rank within three or four years and that, because of the growth in British Airways,

hundreds more commands will become available leading to a general increase in promotion prospects for everyone."

All British Caledonian staff who moved to British Airways have been given a two-year cushion to cover 75 per cent of the drop in pay they would otherwise have had to face. A co-pilot earning around £25,000 a year, will be paid more than his exact counterpart in British Airways, at least for the time being.

The differences led to at least one employee, believed to be a British Airways pilot, to write threatening letters, assigned to British Caledonian pilots. An investigation is under way to trace the culprit, who the pilots' association says should not be at the controls of an aeroplane.

## Call for 'nuclear fault' report to be published

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Government has been asked as a matter of urgency to publish a report that discloses a design fault jeopardizing the safety of Britain's second generation of nuclear power stations.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, is expected to reply in the Commons on Thursday, to the request from Mr Matthew Taylor, SLD member for Truro.

The confidential report which shows a problem in advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), was prepared in 1980 by Central Electricity Generating Board development engineers, after troubles at

Hinkley Point B power station, Somerset.

Details of the document were disclosed at the weekend by the environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth, which said they showed the problem could make Britain's 10 AGR reactors uneconomic.

The fault stops fuel being removed while the reactor is working. Modifications to Hinkley Point B allow fuel changes when the reactors are operating at a reduced level, but other AGR stations close down.

The CEGB admitted the existence of the fault yesterday but rejected allegations that it had been covered up.

## Warning of 'saturated' Channel tunnel routes

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A warning that road and rail systems in south-east England may become saturated by traffic using the Channel tunnel was given yesterday at a London conference.

Mr Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, which from 1993 will own and operate the tunnel, said that the planned road and rail facilities would cope with the level of traffic to 1993 when the tunnel opens, but by the later 1990s, unless the railways were developed to take a lot of the growth in traffic, Kent and London would have to face the prospect of being repeatedly devastated by motorway construction.

He proposed one or more rail routes, which need not be new, running between London and the tunnel which would be limited to international passenger express services, international express freight trains and non-stop or one-stop commuter trains.

At present British Rail is only committed to spending £550 million.

## May Celebrations ... IN FOOD

With the arrival of May, the uplifting atmosphere of the approaching 'Season' and the observance of burgeoning buds, our Buyers have, with sprightly step and merry roundelay, made introductory offers and celebration prices on products old and new - in order that our customers may join in the adventure of Spring to the benefit of All.

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# Doctors say mercy killings inevitable after nuclear attack

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Mercy killings would be almost inevitable among casualties of a major nuclear attack, a British Medical Association report said yesterday. There would also have to be priorities to decide who should be helped and who should be left.

Although injured children would be a liability, as many as possible would be saved because denying them medical care would probably have "disastrous" effects on the morale of other survivors.

The elderly would have least hope of emergency treatment, while workers with essential skills to maintain basic services would get priority.

The report says: "We see no categorical solution to the problem of mercy killing of survivors who would otherwise experience great suffering followed by certain death."

If mercy killings were felt necessary, the role of doctors would be to identify those who would otherwise die in severe pain.

However, the report adds: "The ethical and legal assumption should continue

to be that deliberate termination of human life is not permitted."

Young adults and children would be treated in preference to older people. Sufferers of long-standing or chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, epileptics and haemophiliacs would probably not have priority, because the drugs they needed would eventually run out.

No treatment should be given for radiation sickness, alone, and burns or blast casualties should not be given priority for treatment if they had been exposed to radiation, the report says.

As many as 28 million people, about half the UK population, would be killed in a major nuclear attack, and another six million would be seriously injured.

The report is by a BMA working party, set up to examine the criteria for the selection of nuclear attack casualties for treatment.

The plumber, the carpenter and the stone mason will have much more to offer after the bomb than the business

executive, the Civil Servant, and even in some cases, the doctor." Professor James Payne, deputy chairman of the BMA board of science and education, said yesterday.

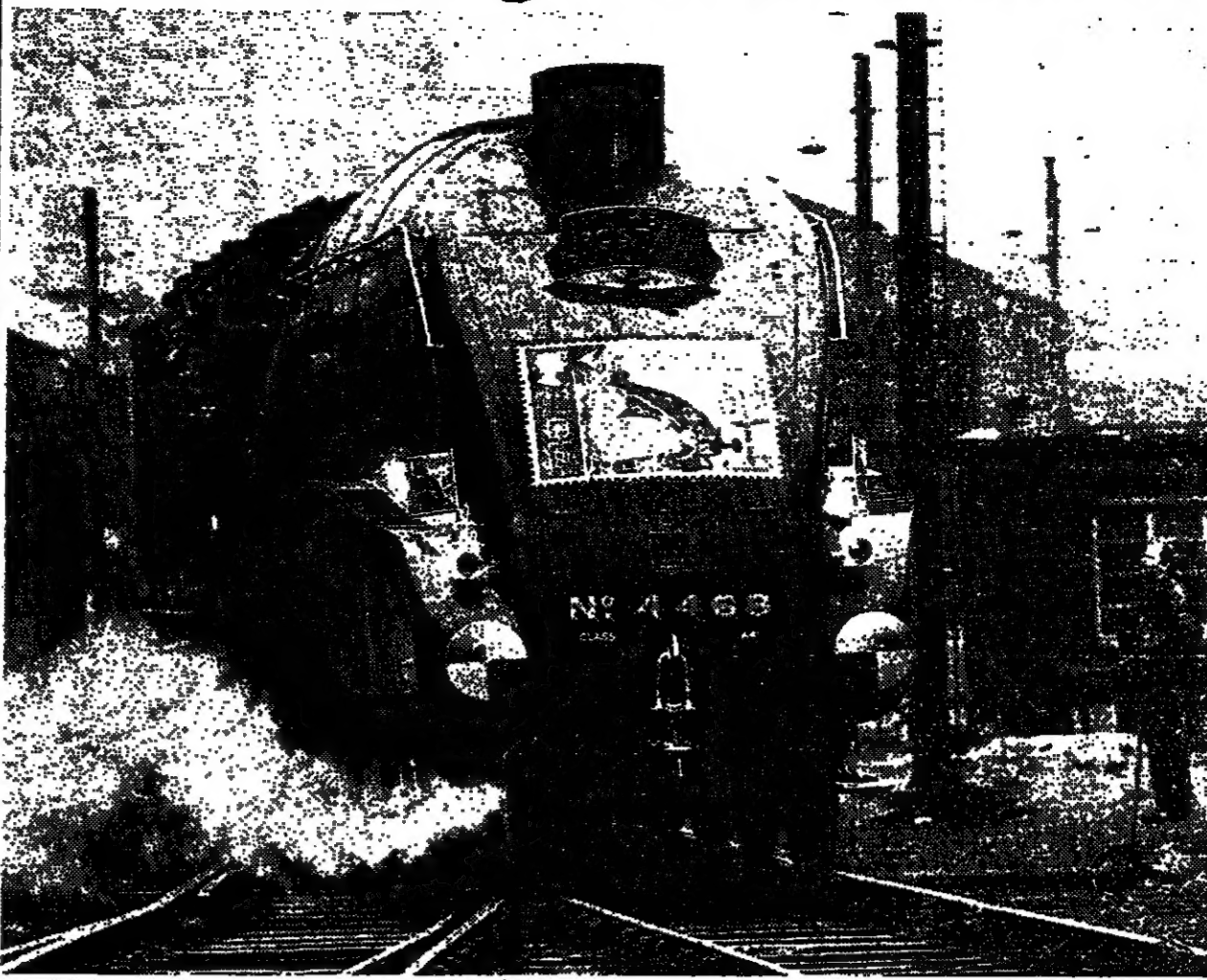
The report adds that doctors and nurses should not consider it a duty to risk their lives to help others in areas of high contamination.

Dr John Dawson, head of the BMA's professional division, emphasized that the report should not be interpreted as expressing any view of the politics of nuclear armament or disarmament.

However, a pressure group of doctors and health professionals, the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, said later: "This is a profoundly depressing report and we urge all health-care workers to put their energies into preventing nuclear war by promoting nuclear disarmament."

Selection of Casualties for Treatment After Nuclear Attack (British Medical Association, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE; £4.95 for BMA members, £5.95 for non members).

## Double image for the Mallard



The Mallard, which made a record 126 mph in 1938, leaving Marylebone station yesterday, carrying huge "Mallard" stamps to mark the issue of four new stamps on a transport theme. (Photograph: Graham Wood). Post pledge, page 5

## Portfolio Gold Holiday boost for winners

Two of the three winners of the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 are planning to spend their money on better than planned summer holidays.

Mrs Alma Hancock, aged 63, a housewife, of Phyllis Avenue, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, said she would probably put her share of £1,333 towards having a longer holiday with her husband.

Also planning a holiday is Mr John Woodstock, aged 50, a salesman, of Briar Way, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

The third winner, Mrs Susan Dickinson, a housewife, of Maytings Farm Road, Fareham, Hampshire, plans to use her share to buy luxury items after honouring a promise to her son, Scott, aged eight, to buy him a Lego set.



Mrs Susan Dickinson, who will buy luxuries.

## £1m jackpot 'won by fraud'

A grandmother fraudulently won £1 million in a bingo competition run by *The Sun*, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Peter Openshaw, for the prosecution, said at Preston Crown Court that the jackpot win was part of a plot to swindle the newspaper. However, those involved were unprepared for such a big win.

He said that in 1981, News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun*, had decided to run a series of bingo competitions in a campaign to increase circulation.

Twenty-five million losing cards were printed, together with a few thousand winning cards by Hamilton Publications Ltd, of Burnley.

The man entrusted with the task, Arthur John Sagar, aged 45, a printer, has admitted a series of charges and will be sentenced later.

Mrs Phyllis Hanlon, aged 74, of Queen's Promenade, Blackpool, who claimed the

winning card, Mrs Mary Young, aged 44, of the Dog and Doublet public house, Sandon, Staffordshire, and her mother, Mrs Margaret Ward, aged 75, of Lodge Croft, Sandon, have denied conspiracy.

Mrs Hanlon's son-in-law, Mr Kenneth Fairbrother, aged 50, of Queen's Promenade, Blackpool, and Mr John Stewart Marshall, aged 33, and his wife, Susan, aged 38, of Harcourt Road, Blackburn, have pleaded guilty.

Mr Openshaw alleged that Mrs Young, the landlady of the public house next to the printing works in Trafalgar Square, Burnley, and her mother, had persuaded Sagar to steal some winning cards.

In August 1982, she won £10,000 and gave Sagar £100. In the next six months, Mrs Ward's late husband won £20,000 and her daughter won £10,000. Mr Openshaw said the odds against three members of the same family winning were astronomical.

The court was told that in August 1985 Mr and Mrs Marshall took over from Mrs Young as licensee. Sagar, of St Matthew's Street, Burnley, had given stolen tickets to the Marshalls and told them that nominees would be needed to claim on their behalf.

Sagar had later gone to Benidorm, Spain, on holiday and met Fairbrother, a bar keeper, who sent Mrs Hanlon some cards.

When the Marshalls got a full house in September 1984, Mrs Hanlon was approached and agreed to claim on their behalf. The shared £40,000 win entitled her to enter a competition for £1 million.

She and other winners were invited to lunch with Mr Michael Aspel, the television personality, at the Hilton Hotel, London. Each was presented with a key to a box, one of which contained a cheque for £1 million. Mrs Hanlon had won the cash.

The trial continues today.

## Videophones arrive on the desk-top

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

The world's first desk-top videophone, enabling callers to talk and see each other on colour television screens, is to be unveiled today at an international exhibition in Birmingham.

Developed by Vistacom, a Finnish company, the videophone has a six-inch colour screen carrying pictures taken with a small camera built into the unit.

Its development has been made

possible by new techniques for cramming information into signals travelling along telephone lines. Called data compression algorithms, they permit transmission of moving pictures that would otherwise take up more than 1,000 telephone lines.

Earlier attempts to build commercially viable videophones have been thwarted by the bulky and expensive electronic equipment needed.

The technical breakthrough made by the company has enabled low-cost,

standard electronic components to be used and all the data processing required takes place within the desk-top unit.

The unit costs about £8,500, compared with about £30,000 for videophones currently being made by specialist manufacturers. The price of calls will be about the same as on conventional telephones.

It can be connected directly to the digital telephone networks being installed by many countries, including the UK.

## Brangwyn art collection

## Galleries snubbed by owner

By Ruth Gledhill

A valuable art collection will not be given to the nation because museums and galleries would "lock it away forever", the owner said last night.

Mr Rodney Brangwyn, great nephew of Sir Frank Brangwyn, has reversed his decision to donate part of his collection to the nation after visits to museums and galleries which already own some of his great uncle's work.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the pictures Sir Frank gave away in the last 20 years of his life were on display. Most were in store rooms and boxes, and had not been seen by the public for years. Sir Frank died in 1956.

Mr Brangwyn, of Kensington, west London, has many works by his great uncle, some of which were left to him by his father and some of which he bought.

"My great uncle gave away his best stuff to museums and galleries, not knowing what would happen to it", Mr Brangwyn said.

Mr Brangwyn tried to see his great uncle's oil painting "The Poulterer's Shop", acquired by the Tate Gallery in 1916. "They stopped exhibiting it in 1939 and it has not been seen since. It was pinned behind a stack in the store and could not be reached. I was unable to see it."

He has had to make appointments to see other unexhibited pictures at the City of Leeds art gallery and at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

Sir Frank was the most fashionable artist of his time. His paintings are in a bold imperialist style and were often used for murals. The Brangwyn Hall in Swansea is named after him.

Now, many of his contemporaries, such as Sickert and Munnings, are better known. A Brangwyn oil painting recently sold at Christie's for £17,500 and a water colour for £3,000.

Mr Brangwyn's decision to sell his collection rather than give it away comes after a report by the National Audit Office which highlighted the fact that hundreds of damaged paintings, tapestries and books were hidden away in overcrowded museum and gallery store rooms.

Saleroom, page 5

## Portrait of a golfer

## Change of order at the 19th

By Andrew Longmore

The average British golfer is changing in shape and habit, according to a survey by *Golf World* magazine. No longer is he the overweight business executive spending a minimum of his time on the course and the maximum in the bar.

The modern golfer, of which there are 1.5 million in Britain, is as likely to be a butcher as a businessman, and more likely to be drinking orange juice than gin and tonic if he is not too busy polishing up his putting.

He is likely to be a non-smoker, have a credit card in his back pocket, his golf sticks, and will in all probability be trying to copy the mannerisms, if not the technique, of Seve Ballesteros. If

he lives north of Watford, he is more likely to belong to a golf club because the subscriptions are cheaper.

If golf mirrors society, then we live in an age of egalitarianism, according to the survey, which, *Golf World* claims, is the most comprehensive carried out covering a single sport.

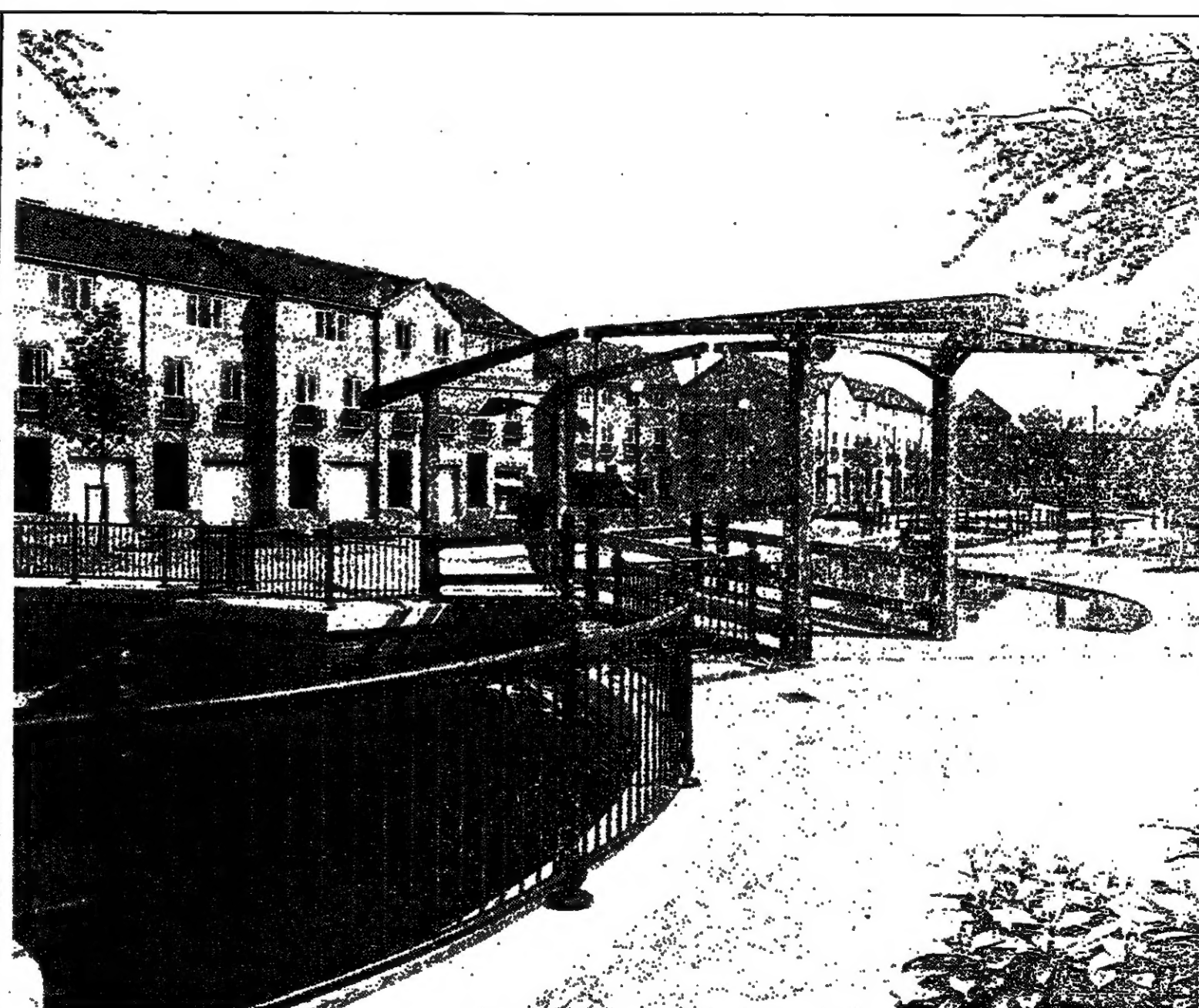
"A lot of people from social grade AB play golf, but what the survey has shown is that you are as likely to get a yuppie next to the local taxi driver as they queue up at the local public house", Mr John Robertson, the magazine's editor says.

He said that the change had come about in recent years, probably because of the grow-

ing success of British golfers like Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo and the influence of European players.

Among the facts to emerge from the survey, based on a sample of 4,000 replies to a questionnaire included in the magazine, was that the average worker was likely to play more often than the company executive or those in the professions; that golfers spend about £540 on clubs, green fees, balls and clothing in addition to the money spent on club subscriptions and that 83 per cent belong to a club.

The full survey, prepared for *Golf World* by the British Market Research Bureau, comes to more than 600 pages.



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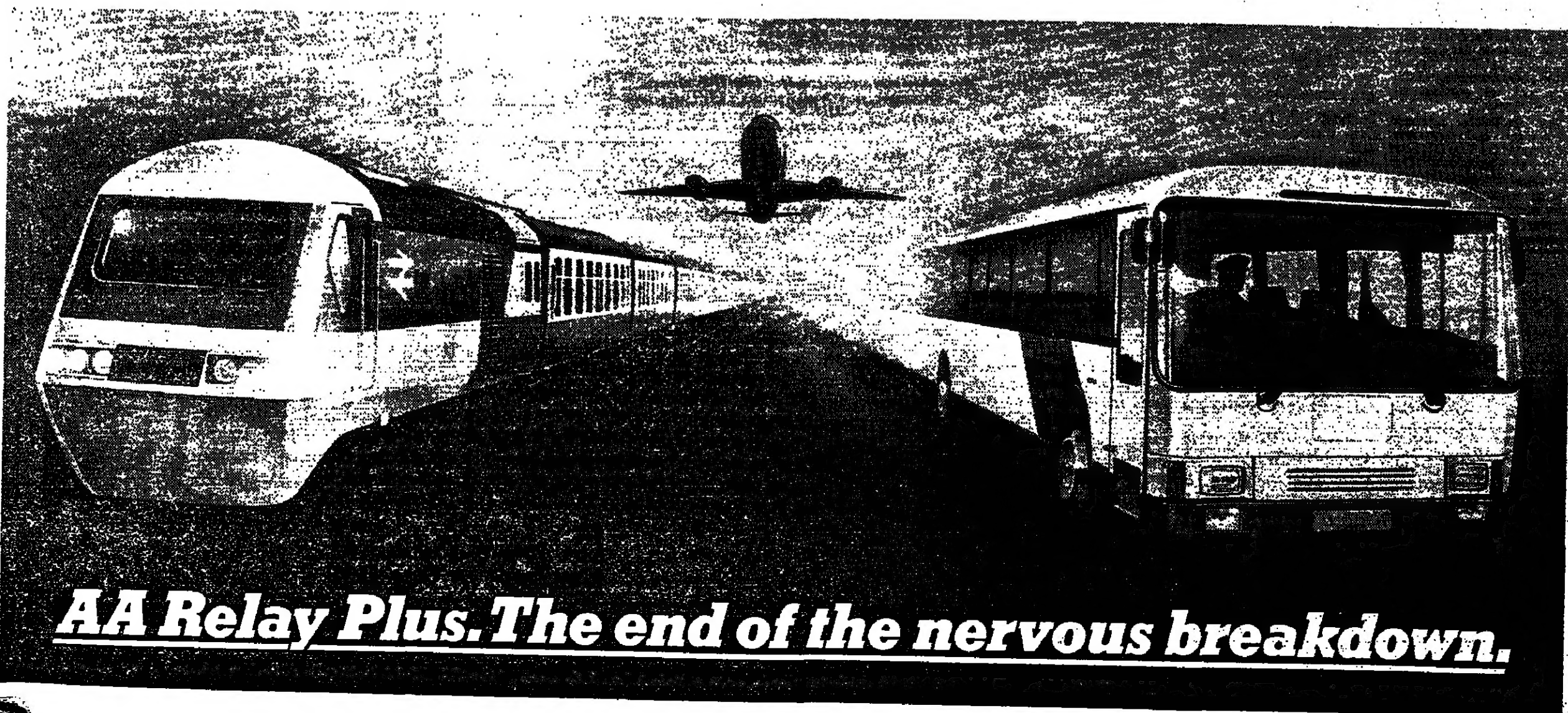
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# Internal market 'will propel Europe on to the blustery world stage'

## Ending of all trade barriers would save £140bn

By Michael Dynes

Complete and effective implementation of the EEC's White Paper programme to eliminate all trade barriers by 1992 will save the European business community an estimated £140 billion, the equivalent of 5 per cent of Europe's gross national product, according to a report published yesterday by the European Commission.

The report, *The European Challenge 1992: The Benefits of a Single Market*, is the first to quantify the cost of Europe's protectionist public procurement, policies, and conflicting national product standards. It was launched in London by Lord Cockfield, Britain's senior European Commissioner.

The report, directed by Mr Paolo Cecchini, a special adviser to the EEC, is based on a survey of 11,000 European companies, conducted by 15 companies of consultants, academics, economists and EEC personnel.

The authors say that the unprecedented two-year study has



produced "a vivid picture of the mosaic of non-tariff barriers which, 30 years after the Community's birth, continue to mock the term 'single market'."

In addition to demonstrating the cost of maintaining 12 separate markets, it highlights opportunities for economic growth, job creation, reduced costs, improved productivity, increased competition, professional and business mobility and consumer choice.

The authors say that if the internal market programme is successfully implemented, "it will

propel Europe on to the blustery world stage of the 1990s in a position of competitive strength, and on an upward trajectory of economic growth lasting into the next century."

The report says: "The progressive impact of EEC market integration, could, in the space of a few years, put between four and seven percentage points on the Community's domestic product. This vista is not a tantalizing chimera. On the contrary, it is a firm prospect."

Lord Cockfield, in a foreword, says: "Now we have the hard

evidence, the confirmation of what those who are engaged in building Europe have always known: that the failure to achieve a single market has been costing European industry millions in unnecessary costs and opportunities."

The report examines EEC market fragmentation in 13 areas, including customs formalities, technical regulations, financial services, public procurement, business services, foodstuffs and the telecommunications industry. It finds: ● Customs-related costs, identified as the main concern of business

men, absorb about 25 per cent of many company profits. ● Integration of European markets for telecommunications services and equipment will produce savings of about £4 billion. ● Market fragmentation in financial services, such as banking, insurance and investment, have cost an estimated £14.3 billion. ● Removal of trade barriers in the business services sector, including management consultancy, public relations and advertising, will eventually produce savings of more than £6 billion.

● Demand for cars could increase by 500,000 as a result of falling prices which would follow the removal of technical barriers. ● Savings of up to £1.1 billion would accrue to the construction industry as a result of the market integration programme. ● Food companies, geared to servicing national markets fragmented by non-tariff barriers such as packaging, labelling and ingredient laws, remain vulnerable to American domination.

The report says abolition of trade barriers "will trigger a supply-side shock to the Community economy as a whole. Costs will come down. Prices will follow as business, under pressure of new rivals on previously-protected markets, is forced to develop fresh responses to a novel and permanently changing situation. Ever present competition will ensure the completion of a self-sustaining virtuous circle."

*The European Challenge 1992: The Benefits of a Single Market* (Wildwood House: £6.95).

Public purchasing warning, page 77

## Scotland will teach French in France

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

French schoolchildren will soon receive French lessons in their classrooms beamed by satellite from Scotland.

The idea may sound extraordinary but it will happen next year when Europe's first satellite education service begins direct broadcasting to schools, universities and teaching hospitals across 10 EEC countries.

Advanced French language courses transmitted to the rest of Europe from a new modern languages teaching centre at Glasgow University will be one of five projects arranged by a new organization called Sat-Ecosse, Satellite Education Out of Scotland Serving Europe. The satellite channel is being given by the European Space Agency next year.

The Scottish programmes will occupy 3 per cent of the "free air time" of nine hours a day offered by the space agency to encourage educationists to experiment with the new aid for distance learning.

All the Scottish projects involve language learning. A series of programmes on medical English is being prepared by the Institute for Applied Language Studies in Edinburgh and a series on English for professional and business services is being devised at Edinburgh University and Stevenson College.

"Interactive video magazines" will link schools in Scotland and France. Groups of schools there will be responsible for a four-week series covering current affairs, literature and arts in their countries.

When the European Space Agency offered one channel on Olympus for the education experiment, the first people to take up the offer were members of Sat-Ecosse, formed two years ago by the late Dr Bill McDowall, director of Edinburgh University's language centre, and Dr Jim Coleman, of Glasgow University's French department.

Dr Coleman said yesterday: "Offering to teach French to the French may sound a bit of a cheek. In fact, Glasgow University is a recognized centre of excellence for the teaching of modern languages."

The satellite education experiment extends measures introduced by the EEC to encourage students to study outside their own country.

## Scottish Office criticized over spread of Aids

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Scottish Office has done little to set on a government report urging controls in Scotland to stop the spread of Aids among drug addicts, the Commons social services committee said yesterday.

The report by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), published by the Department of Health and Social Security in March, found that up to half of all drug users in some parts of Scotland, particularly Edinburgh, were Aids carriers.

It said the authorities were "ill-equipped" to combat the spread of the disease.

The council recommended the provision of sterile injecting equipment, the prescription of substitute, non-injectable drugs, psychiatric help, including the appointment of full-time consultant psychiatrists in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and the creation of drug crisis intervention units.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead and chairman of the Commons committee, which inquired into Aids last year, said: "We can find practically no evidence that the Scottish Office has taken any action on the report." The committee has written to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Field said: "You could

never deduce from the complicity of the Scottish Office that Scotland stands on the edge of the abyss. Mr Rifkind has been lulled into a false sense of security by his officials."

In their letter to Mr Rifkind, the MPs quote Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, who told the Commons the report "does not give an entirely balanced assessment of the situation in Scotland, nor does it take into account the different historical background to the drugs problem here."

Mr Forsyth said yesterday: "We are well aware of the dangers of Aids and drug misuse in Scotland and have made this plain on many occasions, including the statement which I made when the ACMD report was published on March 29." Urgent steps had been taken to provide additional funds for local services and a big education programme.

The Commons committee is preparing a report on the spread of Aids among addicts. It has asked the ACMD to participate.

● The spread of Aids is not slowing, in spite of a relatively small increase in cases last month, the DHSS said yesterday. Another 34 people contracted the disease, bringing the total to 1,463, and 57 died.

## Futuristic ferry to skim roughest seas



Mark Fridge (top), a captain of supply vessels in the offshore oil industry, with the Ilan Voyager, a prototype catamaran ferry, and the team which is building it in Bristol, yesterday. Helicopters are used at present when the sea is too rough for conventional craft to carry personnel out to rigs. However, the operating costs are enormous. The Ilan Voyager's unique

construction should cut costs and almost eliminate sea-sickness. The ferry was designed from Mr Fridge's idea by Nigel Irens, one of the world's top catamaran and trimaran architects. It is his first venture into commercial shipping. Mr Irens said: "We've produced a hull that will be comfortable in the worst conditions, coupled with a very low fuel consump-

tion because of its extremely low drag." At full-size the Ilan Voyager will be 160ft from bow to stern and will carry about 80 passengers in aircraft-style accommodation. Besides the oil industry the designers are already attracting inquiries from countries such as Indonesia and Polynesia, where efficient transport between islands is essential. "By staying away

from a high-tech construction and propulsion it should find a market in the Third World where a helicopter and even a hydrofoil are too exotic in terms of maintenance and running costs", Mr Irens said. The Ilan should attain a top speed of about 35mph from a small truck engine. (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

## New town assets sell well above target

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

Property and land was sold for £216 million last year by the Commission for New Towns, half as much again as the target set by the Government.

The commission was formed to take over, and dispose of, the assets of new towns from their development corporations. Since 1979 it has raised £900 million.

Sir Neil Shields, commission chairman, announces the results today. The sales programme, involving 13 new towns in the South-east, Midlands and North-west, has "returned to the Government a sum substantially in excess of money raised through the flotation of some state-owned companies".

The disposal programme is accelerating, Sir Neil says. The market remains buoyant, the commission hopes to sell £300 million of assets this financial year. The commission still has a portfolio estimated at about £1 billion, and it has four more new towns to take over. They are Peterborough, which will be taken over in October; Warrington/Runcorn, Cheshire, next year; Telford, Shropshire, in 1991; and Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, in 1992.

A substantial number of the commission's deals in 1987, 88 were with existing owners in line with its policy of giving them the first option on a sale. Recent sales include Ipsley Court offices, in Redditch, West Midlands, to the Law Society and a large factory in Skelmersdale, Lancashire, bought by the Japanese firm, Sanko Gosei, makers of plastic mouldings. One of the main sales during the year was Basildon town centre, Essex, including shops and offices, which Norwich Union bought for £21 million.

Sir Neil says the commission's success was because of a big marketing drive, the continuing buoyancy of the economy and the increasing attractiveness of the holdings. "It also demonstrates increasing interest in our Midlands and north-west portfolio."

## Survey on pay discloses the big earners among private practice assistants

### Junior solicitors earn more from criminal work

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Junior solicitors in some firms handling criminal legal aid are being paid more than those in any other field of legal work, it is disclosed today.

A survey, believed to be the first undertaken of assistant, or non-partner, solicitors in private practice, shows criminal work is better paid for junior solicitors in the London suburbs and in Wales than conveyancing, or company and commercial work.

It also confirms there is a big gap between the earnings of City lawyers in company and commercial work and the general or family law practitioners out of central London.

Married women's earnings are substantially lower than those of single women solicitors.

An assistant solicitor in the London suburbs specializing in crime earns an average of £17,202 compared with £17,002 for conveyancing

Commitment proceedings should be abolished and replaced with a formal "paper" procedure by which cases would be transferred to the crown court without a hearing and within statutory time limits, the Criminal Bar Association says today.

In a paper to the Lord Chancellor, the first in a series proposing reforms to the criminal justice system, the association says present arrangements can be "inefficient, unfair and open to abuse". It adds: "Commitment proceedings are an unnecessary clog on court time and an ineffective way of weeding out the defective case before it reaches the crown court."

Commitment proceedings should be replaced by a "transfer" system. Cases to be tried on indictment would be transferred to the crown court by a formal paper process without a court

hearing. At present the commitment system can break down either because the magistrate is reluctant to decide that there is no case to answer, or through the unwillingness of the defence to disclose its case to the prosecution at an early stage of what could be a long trial, the association says.

It calls for statutory time limits for the transfers to be imposed by the Home Secretary to cut delays. If there are submissions by the defence that there is no case to answer, they would be made to a crown court judge after transfer. Magistrates' courts would continue to deal with bail and legal aid.

Under the new system, each side would still retain the right to require oral evidence to be taken before trial.

work. In Wales the figures are £14,668 and £13,350.

The average salary of an assistant in the City is £27,400, in the West End of London it is £21,300 to £22,490. In the London suburbs the average drops to £16,830; to £14,560 in the Midlands; to £14,130 in the North-east; and to £13,070 in Wales.

The survey was by Chambers and Partners, the London legal recruitment agency using a random sample of 2,330 assistant solicitors in private practice.

Mr Michael Chambers, owner of the firm, said: "What seems to emerge is that it is not profitable for a firm to do a small amount of crime, and

have a solicitor waiting in court just to handle one case. But if a firm specializes exclusively in this field and processes large numbers of cases, then crime can be quite profitable."

Mostly, it is company and commercial lawyers who earn the biggest salaries. The average for juniors in England and Wales is £21,700.

They are ahead of tax lawyers by about £3,000. Tax lawyers are ahead of conveyancers by about £1,500. Conveyancers lead litigators by about £1,000 and litigators are ahead of criminal lawyers and private client, probate and trust lawyers by about £1,000. At the bottom of the league, by a margin of £1,200, are general and matrimonial practitioners.

Married women who are full-time solicitors earn on average 11 per cent less than single women. Among women with between seven and 20 years' experience the difference is 22 per cent.

One reason was thought to be the areas of work chosen by married women. Mr Chambers said: "It seems they go for regular hours of work, fields such as probate and conveyancing, rather than litigation."

A survey of assistant solicitors in England and Wales. *Salaries and career patterns* (Chambers and Partners, 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET; free).

## Sub-postmasters fear 'persecution'

By Mark Ellis

Sub-postmasters who have been robbed are being persecuted by the Post Office, their federation said yesterday. The Post Office is trying to blame them for security breaches and making unreasonable demands for contributions to make up losses, it was alleged.

Britain's 19,000 sub-postmasters faced a disturbing increase in cases of firearms being used on raids and then were subjected to "unwarranted, vicious persecution and victimization" by the Post Office Mr Bernard Jay, president of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, told its annual conference.

One sub-postmaster told *The Times* he feared he would have to sell his home after the Post Office demanded repayment of "tens of thousands of pounds" stolen during a raid in which ammonia was squirted into the face of his father.

Mr Brian Atkins, aged 57, had installed armour-plated glass at his sub-post office and pharmacy in Raby Street in central Newcastle upon Tyne. Two weeks before the robbery police approved the security measures and warned Mr Atkins and his staff not to tackle robbers.

"The glass cost me hundreds but I was sick and tired of break-ins and vandalism". "I was told you would not get a tank through it, but it was smashed by a four-man gang. They cleared us out of everything."

"Shortly after, the Post Office said the 'overall security left a lot to be desired' and demanded I made up the loss."

The Post Office dropped its demands over the raid two years ago, but Mr Atkins was incensed by its handling of the matter.

The federation conference, in Torquay, was told there were 183 raids on sub-post offices last year. Mr Jay said: "It seems the district managers' policy is that unless there are signs of blood, or blood running down the face of the sub-postmaster or any of his staff, then they are at fault and the Post Office demands a contribution to the loss of monies."

The Post Office said the criticism was unfair. Its first concern was for the safety and security of staff. District managers were made aware of the need to be sensitive and caring when dealing with robbery victims.

## Post Office promises faster letter deliveries

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr Bill Cockburn, the man responsible for getting 51 million letters a day delivered in time, promised a new era of efficiency yesterday when he outlined the final phases of a £38 million investment in the Royal Mail.

The managing director of letters at the Post Office chose the 150th anniversary of railway travelling post offices (TPO) to give details of improvements to the system which, he said, would ensure that more than 90 per cent of first class letters would reach their destinations next day.

Last year the Post Office spent £18 million on letter delivery. The next phase, from May 16 to October, will cost £20 million.

After a review of the letter delivery network, the Post Office is reorganizing its overnight travelling sorting offices to speed the process. Several new links have been introduced - one from the South-east to the North by-passes London - and improvements have been made to existing ones.

Other travelling services, made up of 37 trains with 650 staff on board, will run later to allow mail posted too late to link with road, rail and air connections to be handled for delivery next day.

Mr Cockburn said that as a consequence of the reorganization, 40 million items a day should be speeded up.

## Gulls desert traditional egg hunters

By Kerry Gill

Gulls which for generations have provided an annual egg harvest for people on a remote Scottish moor have mysteriously disappeared.

The herring and black-backed gulls usually return to the traditional nesting site on Flanders Moss, near Thornhill, central Scotland, on the first weekend in May.

Villagers race to be among the first to collect the eggs, which are regarded as a delicacy in ciders. Those who arrive late usually miss out. Mr Roger Beard, regional conservation officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said the disappearance was likely to be caused by changes in agriculture or forestry.

The gulls are regarded as a pest by farmers. However, Mr David Dick, of the society, said it was illegal to collect the eggs without permission. Egg hunters might have to prove it was a traditional pastime.

## Church treasures controversy

### Rysbrack bust may be sold

A Northampton church is expected to sell a terracotta bust by the eighteenth century sculptor, Michael Rysbrack (1694 to 1770), to raise funds.

It will be the first working model of an important work by Rysbrack to come on the market, and the move comes amid a continuing controversy whether the Church of England should be allowed to sell its treasures.

The subject of the sculpture, which is modestly estimated at £150,000, is John Palmer, rector of Ecton from 1631 to 1672, and archdeacon of Northampton from 1665.

From 1721 until last December, it stood in the entrance hall of Ecton House, once the rectory of the Northampton parish and now a centre for spiritual retreats. The finished marble bust is attached to Palmer's tomb in Ecton church, and will remain in situ.

The Peterborough Diocesan Parsonages Board has ob-

tain the necessary consents from the parochial church council, Church Commissioners, and others, and the model is due to be sold at Christie's in December. The proceeds will go towards buying a new parsonage for Ecton.

The Rev Trevor Willmott, warden of Ecton House, said yesterday: "I think we are totally justified in selling it." He described the bust as "in Cavalier style with long flowing locks, and skull cap - a very fine face".

Mr Charles Avery, of Christie's, said the sculpture was beautifully made. "As it is the original terracotta model, it is closer to the artist's hand than the marble."

The London church of St Martin-in-the-Fields was criticized for selling its bust of

Thomas Gibbs, also by Rysbrack, earlier this year.

Humble Victorian envelopes improved by their senders by entertaining drawings and water colours were in great demand at Sotheby's yesterday.

A series of 20 such, illustrated with witty pen and ink sketches of removal men, railway porters and policemen, their address ingeniously fitted on to boxes, seats and the like, were sold for £4,840 (10 times over estimate) to an Italian collector.

They had been sent between 1893 and 1894 by an anonymous admirer in Blackpool to a Miss Fowler, possibly a music hall artiste.

Christie's art nouveau sale in Geneva on Sunday totalled £752,000, with 30 per cent unsold. An amethyst-coloured cat mascot in the shape of an eagle's head fetched the top price at £25,385, twice the estimate.

Recent large bequests to animal charities have included £3 million from Miss Amy Bell, a recluse who died last year in London.

Other wills, page 19

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been left more than £2.76 million by an elderly widow who did not even belong to the charity. The bequest is more than £1 million higher than any previously received by the RSPCA.

It came from the estate of Mrs Dorothy Rose Walker, of Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey. She died last December, leaving the society £2,767,752.

All that the RSPCA knows about Mrs Walker is that she was the widow of a Richmond property owner who had no surviving relatives and whose only obvious sign of her secret love for animals was her pet cat. That is to be cared for by the RSPCA.



## Whitehall relief at end of protocol nightmare

## France reverts to single voice

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The death of the Chirac-Mitterrand *cohabitation* looks like being entirely painless for the Anglo-French relationship, in spite of the high probability that M Jacques Chirac's mantle will pass to a Socialist.

British relief at being able to deal with a French Government speaking with a single voice will entirely outweigh any preference the Government may have had for M Chirac's policies. For the past two years, Mrs Thatcher has had to consult both the President and the Prime Minister on all main issues without ever being able to take for granted a consistent line.

Although she hid any irritation, Mrs Thatcher cannot have been happy with the farcical revolving-door diplomacy at 10 Downing Street which stemmed from it. At the last Anglo-French summit in London in January she tried hard to avoid offending either man while seeing them in the correct protocol order.

They arrived, as always, in separate aircraft and used different cars, but because of a hitch, M Chirac was kept waiting. When he was ushered in, for a meeting which proved somewhat fractious, M Mitterrand had to be packed off to the Royal Academy for an hour.

M Chirac's Government proved more enthusiastic about Anglo-French military co-operation than its Socialist

predecessor, but his removal will not necessarily reverse the trend. The Government feels comfortable with M Mitterrand's instincts on defence, as he supports the need to retain independent and modernized nuclear deterrents in both countries.

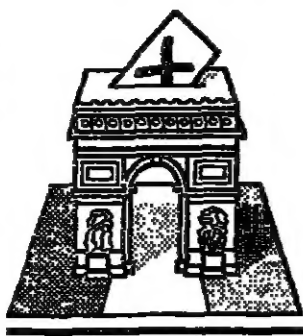
President Mitterrand's emphasis on giving priority to conventional disarmament in Europe is not too different from Mrs Thatcher's view that conventional and chemical weapons must be reduced or balanced before there is further talk of eliminating tactical nuclear weapons.

The British Government's long-term hope that France might rejoin the integrated military structure of Nato will not be realized under M Mitterrand. But then, it would almost as certainly have been a non-starter under M Chirac.

President Mitterrand's views on negotiations with governments capable of influencing hostage-takers are seen as being too close to those of M Chirac's for comfort. But it was M Chirac, not M Mitterrand, who did the deals which upset the British Government, even if it was cautious about voicing criticism.

In British eyes the French have become much more realistic in their attitude to EEC spending in recent years, but this is not likely to be affected by the election result.

On other issues, the British Government will be reassured



THE FINAL VOTE		
French presidential run-off		
	Votes	%
Mitterrand	16,710,723	54.02
Chirac	14,221,682	45.97
Turnout	84.1%	

by M Mitterrand's central policy objective of bridging the ideological divide and seeking consensus. The discreet overtures already made by centre-right figures like M Raymond Barre and M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing have given the impression in London that President Mitterrand could succeed in commanding the political centre.

His declaration that he will not reverse the privatization programme carried through by M Chirac is seen as a particularly encouraging sign.

● **WELLINGTON:** New Zealand yesterday formally protested to France over the early repatriation of the Rainbow Warrior saboteurs and sought their return to exile on the South Pacific atoll of Hao (Richard Long writes).

Mr Russell Marshall, the

Foreign Affairs Minister, announced the protest in a statement which also congratulated President Mitterrand on his re-election.

Mr Marshall said he trusted that the new French Government would honour the ruling by the United Nations Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, and return the agents to serve out their three years in exile.

Failing this, Mr Marshall indicated New Zealand would seek an arbitration tribunal hearing, provided for in the July 1986 agreement which released the agents into French custody on Hao.

Major Alain Mafart and Captain Dominique Prieur, members of the French secret service, the DGSE, were sentenced to 10 years in jail in New Zealand for their part in the July 1985 bombing of the Greenpeace protest ship and the death of a crew member.

France agreed to keep the pair in exile for three years from the time of the July 1986 agreement, but Major Mafart was repatriated to Paris last December, with an unspecified stomach complaint, and Captain Prieur was taken home to a hero's welcome on the eve of the presidential election.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that initially Paris wanted the transfer of Captain Prieur on Tuesday on the ground of pregnancy, but by Thursday

she had to leave immediately as her father had only 48 hours to live.

It was, he said, extraordinary how Paris seemed to know in advance that someone was to die within 48 hours when there had been no previous indication of this.

● **PARIS:** With uncanny precision as polling stations closed in the presidential elections, the BVA market research group came out with predictions on voting percentages which have absolutely reflected the final totals.

The chairman of BVA Opinion Polls, M Michel Brulé, said yesterday that their accuracy was a mixture of hard work and good fortune. The hard work entailed exit polls at 150 polling stations all over the country.

The good fortune was that in small towns polling stations closed at 6 pm, in larger towns at 7 pm, and only in Paris at 8 pm when those first predictions are flashed with great fanfare on television screens.

M Brulé's opinion polls show that 61 per cent of those questioned feel that M Mitterrand should now call general elections to give him the Socialist Party backing he needs. Further opinion polls show that the socialists could get 38 per cent of the legislative vote — enough to give them a majority.

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Leading article, page 17  
Bourse reaction, page 24

## Victory salute in Ecuador



Señor Rodrigo Borja greeting his delighted Social Democratic supporters in Quito with a clenched fist after his convincing victory in Ecuador's presidential election on Sunday.

## Fears of crisis eased

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Señor Rodrigo Borja, a Social Democrat, has won Ecuador's presidential election by a sufficient margin to avoid a constitutional crisis that many observers had feared.

Señor Borja, of the centre-left Democratic Left party, beat Señor Abdalá Bucaram and his supporters to question it. There had also been fears that, in the event of an outright win by Señor Bucaram, which had never been quite ruled out, the armed forces would have intervened to prevent his taking office.

It was third time lucky for Señor Borja, aged 52, a law professor. The Latin-American club of predominantly democratic presidents will thus gain a respectable if somewhat humourous new member when he takes office on August 10 to govern this Andean nation of 10 million inhabitants for the next four years.

He will succeed President

Febrés, whose Social Christian Party Administration is leaving a daunting legacy, having plunged the nation into the worst economic crisis in its history.

Ecuador, an Opec member, suspended payments on its \$10,000 million (£5,376 million) foreign debt last year, and Señor Borja has already given notice that his priorities will be to improve living standards and create jobs before seeking ways to renegotiate the debt.

But he will be under considerable pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to increase petrol prices and charges for public services.

He will have one notable advantage over his predecessor, a right-winger who faced an openly hostile Congress. Señor Borja's party will have an overall majority in the new Congress.

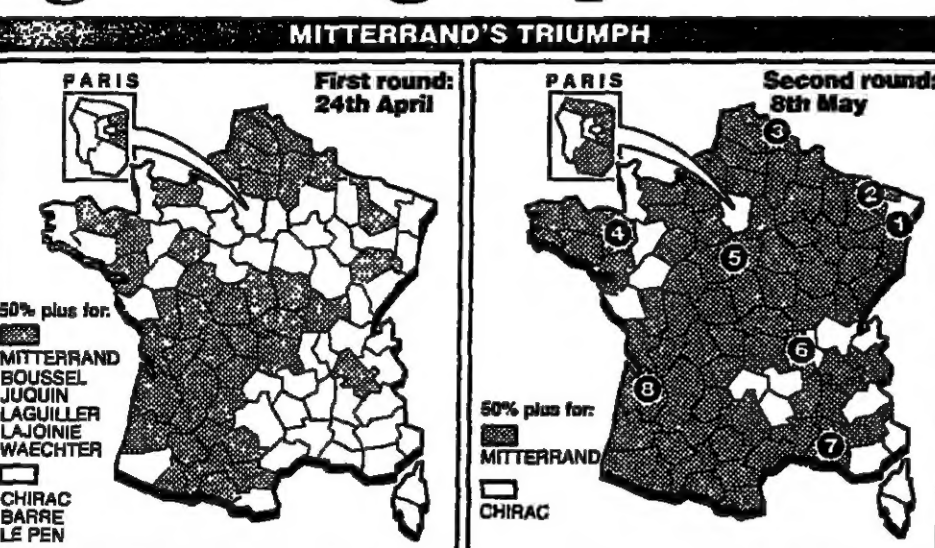
## Charting winning steps to the Elysée

In the first round of presidential election voting, 52 of France's 96 departments gave the three candidates of the right more than half the votes. The second-round voting pattern is surprisingly different.

All that is left of the white areas on the map are a few patches: four in the north-west, three in and around Paris, one in the north-east and 11 in the south-west. This is a total of 19 departments. A look at second-round voting in the principal towns gives an idea as to why this switch took place and of the role played by M Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front.

● **1 Strasbourg (Alsace)** — In Strasbourg itself M Jacques Chirac managed to squeak through with 50.13 per cent of the vote, while in other towns in the region M François Mitterrand overtook him. The comfortable first-round right-wing majority was largely due to M Le Pen gaining over 20 per cent of the vote, and it was his voters who must in the second round have deserted the right under M Chirac to vote for M Mitterrand, so changing the political landscape.

● **2 Metz (Lorraine)** — Metz in the Moselle region is a



traditionally right-wing town which has now seen its voting practices turned upside-down. The high first-round Le Pen vote was principally a protest in a high unemployment area where people feel they are overlooked. The second-round regional vote gave M Mitterrand the same high percentage as scored by General de Gaulle in 1965.

● **3 Lille (Nord Pas-de-Calais)** — Traditionally left-wing with important Communist

strongholds in the region, M Mitterrand scored above the national average in Lille, with 57.36 per cent of the vote. His second-round score remains high even in the areas where the National Front took over 20 per cent of the vote in the first round. The low first-round Communist vote shows that many traditional communists rebelled and voted National Front but reverted to the left for the run-off.

● **4 Rennes (Britany)** — Here

M Mitterrand confirmed his good first-round results with help from National Front voters and also those who voted centre-right French Democratic Union party the first time around. M Chirac's military operation to free the hostages in New Caledonia counted against him. And even in Corps-Nods, the home town of one of the freed hostages held in Lebanon, M Jean-Paul Kautmann, M Chirac gained only 39.1 per cent of the vote.

● **5 Orléans (Centre)** — Orléans was the only large town in this group of departments to give M Chirac a majority — and that by only half a percent.

● **6 Lyons (Rhône Alpes)** — The centre-right leader, M Raymond Barre, is deputy here and his call for supporters to vote for M Chirac appears to have been followed. M Chirac scored 54.98 per cent.

● **7 Marseilles (Provence Côte d'Azur)** — It was in Marseilles that M Le Pen beat everyone else in the first round with 28.34 per cent. Although a large proportion of the National Front vote went to M Chirac this time — giving him 50.12 per cent of the vote — a sufficiently large number voted for M Mitterrand to make the previously glib Socialists happy.

● **8 Bordeaux (Aquitaine)** — M Chirac's 51.4 per cent in Bordeaux is not representative of the region overall where M Mitterrand gained 55.20 per cent.

● **9 Paris** — M Chirac has been Mayor of Paris for the last 10 years and his good record in that time explains his high overall 54.68 per cent in the second round.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Martens sworn in as coalition head

Brussels — Dr Wilfried Martens was yesterday sworn in as Prime Minister of Belgium at the head of a new centre-left coalition after a weekend of tough five-party negotiations over the distribution of portfolios (Jonathan Braude writes).

The installation of the eighth administration headed by Dr Martens followed a crisis that left the country without a Government for 46 days. Among many surprises in the list of posts was the retention of the former Prime Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, as Foreign Minister.

## Syria hints of action

Beirut — The bloody inter-Muslim battle for control of the slums of Beirut yesterday reached new levels of violence amid chilling accounts of atrocities and no clear end in sight (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

As hundreds of rockets, mortar and tank shells hammered homes in the southern suburbs for the fourth consecutive day, Syria for the first time hinted that it may send in its Army to halt the bloodshed. The fighting has claimed at least 150 lives since Friday.

## Ethiopia aid setback

International famine relief efforts in Ethiopia have suffered a serious setback with a breakdown in relations between the national and international branches of the Red Cross (Andrew McEwen writes). On Sunday the Ethiopian Red Cross revoked its agreement on joint operations with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Aid workers yesterday said this would force the organization to stop distributing food to more than 100,000 people in the northern province of Gondar.

## China denies killings

Peking (AFP) — China yesterday denied British press reports that 30 Tibetans were massacred by police during a pro-independence riot in Lhasa in March and reaffirmed that the toll was five dead and over 300 injured.

The Observer reported on Sunday that Chinese police killed 30 Tibetan monks in an assault on the Jokhang Temple, Tibetan Buddhism's holiest shrine, to break up a nationalist protest during the March 5 riot. Twenty other Tibetans were killed while protesting against the massacre, the newspaper report claimed.

## Arab is denied bail

Jerusalem — Mr Mubarak Awad, founder of the non-violent Palestinian resistance movement against Israeli occupation, was denied bail yesterday while the High Court considers whether he can be expelled because the tourist visa in his American passport has expired (Ian Murray writes).

## Thatcher favourite

Brussels — Belgian men prefer Mrs Thatcher to their own mothers. Mother Theresa and Madonna, says an opinion poll in the newspaper *Le Soir* (Jonathan Braude writes). Of 1,200 men interviewed, 30 per cent put their own wives and girlfriends first. Seven per cent put Mrs Thatcher first, with Mother Theresa and the interviewee's mother on 5 per cent and the singer Madonna on 2 per cent.

## Polish labour unrest spreads

## Warsaw workers join protest

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

As negotiations between management and strikers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk failed yesterday to end the week-long stoppage there, the Ursus tractor factory near Warsaw, one of the most militant factories in Poland, also reportedly came out on strike.

According to opposition sources, 80 per cent of the 16,000-strong workforce downed tools in support of the shipyard strikers. In addition, the tractor workers are demanding pay increases and the legalization of the outlawed Solidarity movement.

During the 1980-82 period of industrial unrest in Poland, the Ursus factory was in the vanguard of Solidarity's struggle with the authorities. Reports of the stoppage in Warsaw came after strikers at Gdansk rejected a new management offer, which included a guarantee of no reprisals, and wage increases and the reinstatement of recently dismissed Solidarity activists.

Despite dwindling numbers occupying the Lenin Shipyard morale remains high. Notwithstanding renewed police efforts to seal off the yard and prevent food from reaching the 400 strikers left inside, it is

still possible to use courier routes to enter the premises.

An elaborate system of passwords and homemade alarms provides an effective early warning system to prevent entry coinciding with redoubled police patrols.

Most of those employed on this picket duty are teenagers; friends or relatives of some of the shipworkers. They face their long and often lonely vigils with impressive calm, fully aware that should they be caught by the police smuggling food or a Western correspondent into the shipyard the least they can expect will be a few days' detention.

Noticeably fewer people were to be seen yesterday at the vast Lenin Shipyard complex, but it was impossible to estimate during a brief tour how many strikers or civil defence guards remained.

However the pre-First World War red brick blocks of workers' housing between giant cranes and overgrown railway tracks appeared to be fully occupied yesterday.

Strike patrols, waving Polish flags, continued to drive up and down the shipyard's many roads.

Small groups of strikers, huddled together around radios, listened to the latest

Western radio bulletins as well as official news programmes.

None of these men had any thought of giving up their struggle.

Yesterday as on other days the chant "No freedom without Solidarity" echoed around the shipyard from the gates where a few score strikers enjoyed the hot weather by sunbathing on the roof. Stripped to the waist, they were completely at ease even though they were less than 20 yards from several hundred militiamen.

In the workers' canteen, which has become the nerve centre of the strike committee, areas were efficiently divided up between spaces for food and drink and other areas for meetings and publications. A printing press in a converted kitchen continued to produce almost hourly bulletins.

On the floors where hastily improvised beds were prepared, a few dozen strikers were either sleeping or playing cards. Despite having spent more than four days without hot water or proper bathing facilities, none had neglected to shave.

Most are young, too young to have had any role in Solidarity's activities eight years ago. All of them are

determined, however successful the strike committee's negotiations are with the management, not to leave the shipyard until Solidarity is legalized. They are oblivious to the message from General Wojciech Jaruzelski's Government that there is no question of trade union pluralism in Poland.

"True, the Government is perhaps not yet ready to recognize Solidarity but that time must come and we remain a symbol for all Poland," a young welder said.

"We know that if we feel the ground moving from under our feet, Lech Walesa who has been with us all this time, will shore us up as he has done before," another older striker observed.

Despite the management's decision to continue talking with the strikers, many of those encountered yesterday within the shipyard felt that the management was acting arrogantly, trying only to spin out the talks.

"They are arrogant and afraid," one striker said of the management. "They know that Jaruzelski could end up the same way Giermek did after similar industrial unrest. We can wait a few months longer if necessary; they cannot."

here believe that Pretoria would not be prepared to end its occupation of Namibia unless it could engineer a solution of the civil war in Angola that would involve the acceptance of Unita into a coalition government of national unity in Luanda.

Last Saturday, President dos Santos of Angola denied reports that his Government had been conducting clandestine negotiations with Unita.

Pretoria has refused to divulge any details of the London talks, but officials have said that they were encouraged by the seriousness of the proposals for a Cuban withdrawal. Most observers

## Angola peace talks move to the Congo

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, is to hold talks with an Angolan Government delegation in Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo, on Thursday and Friday, informed sources disclosed yesterday.

The meeting is a follow-up to the conference last week in London attended by representatives of South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States. It is understood that the Brazzaville talks will be a purely bilateral affair between South Africa and the nominally Marxist Angolan Government. Mr Botha is

expected to be accompanied by General Magnus Malan, the Minister of Defence. At the London talks, South Africa was represented by a senior Foreign Ministry official and General Jaan de Groot, the Chief of the South African Defence Force.

It is not immediately clear whether the Brazzaville meeting represents an attempt by South Africa and Angola to dispense with America as a mediator, or whether bilateral talks were always envisaged as a sequel to the London conference. After the London meeting, the Cuban delegate,

Señor Jorge Risquet Valdes, a member of the Cuban Politburo, said that Havana had offered to withdraw over four years its estimated 35,000 troops now deployed in Angola. This offer was linked to independence for South Africa and a pledge by South Africa to cease support for the Angolan rebel movement, Unita.

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"Everything that has been said in that regard is false propaganda. There are no reasons for power to be shared with the puppets," he said.

## Reagans strike back over 'kiss and tell' book

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In a scathing personal attack, the White House yesterday denounced Mr Donald Regan, the former White House Chief of Staff, for his "kiss and tell" book about Mrs Nancy Reagan's use of astrology and accused him of seeking to exploit the presidency and the Reagans.

For two consecutive days the White House lambasted President Reagan's former close friend, accusing him at one point of "vindictiveness and revenge" over his stinging revelations and withering criticism of Mrs Reagan. Mr Reagan made clear that he resented attacks on his wife.

The White House described the book as "in the mould of all such books which seek to exploit the presidency or the first family for personal self-interest".

The uproar centred on the revelation that Mrs Reagan consulted a San Francisco astrologer before planning any major event. Mr Martin Fitzwater, the presidential spokesman, acknowledged that after the assassination attempt on President Reagan in March, 1981, Mrs Reagan had "reached out to friends, her minister, her family and her friend who advises on astrology".

The San Francisco astrologer has now been identified as Mrs Joan Quigley, who said she had advised the Reagans since the 1970s. "I'm not a pop astrologer," she said. "My work is very serious, scientific and technical."

The White House accused Mr Regan of trying to defame the First Lady in his book, excerpts of which were released on Sunday, "and on (American) Mother's Day no less". But the multi-millionaire was unrepentant, saying that he had tried not to be nasty in his book about his six years in the Reagan Administration, first as Treasury Secretary and then, for two years, as Chief of Staff. He was

forced out by Mrs Reagan at the height of the Iran-Contra scandal in February, 1987. "I was made the victim, so now the victim tells his side of the story," he declared. He has donated to charity the \$1 million (£555,000) advance he received for the book, *For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington*. His wealth has been put at \$50 million (£26.8 million).

Asked if his book might damage Mrs Reagan, he shot back angrily. "I ask you what damage has the First Lady done to me? If this harms or hurts her, it is part of the story of what happened to me." In his book he said Mrs Reagan "regarded herself as the President's alter ego, not only in the conjugal but also in the political and official dimensions".

Revelations about Mrs Reagan's stargazing have brought mockery and humiliation to the White House, with senior Democrats variously expressing astonishment and anger that the President allowed his schedule to be influenced by a strange woman from San Francisco who met Mrs Reagan years ago on a television chat show.

Since the Iran-Contra fiasco broke 18 months ago, Mr Reagan's once-mighty prestige has been badly damaged by critical congressional reports about his lackadaisical management style and, more recently, by a string of unflattering memoirs by former senior officials.

The President himself has emphasized that he never used astrology in reaching policy decisions.

Mr Reagan gave a string of interviews to publicize his book. Asked why he did not wait for the Reagan presidency to end before publishing the book he stabbed his fingers impatiently on his desk and said: "Did they wait until they were out of office for me? I... don't see any reason why I should hold up my story."





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Borg-Warner Automotive Transmission Systems	Kodak Ltd (Manufacturing)
BP Chemicals Ltd	Lab-Craft Ltd
British Aerospace plc (Army Weapons Division)	Martin James Hair Design Group
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Brush Electrical Machines Ltd	Metropolitan Police (Management Training and Development Branch)
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## Election defeat puts Kohl programme of reforms in jeopardy

From John England, Bonn

After the stunning defeat of his Christian Democrats (CDU) in a state election in Schleswig-Holstein on Sunday, Chancellor Kohl now faces possible problems in winning passage for his centre-right Government's reform plans in Bonn.

The poll, which saw the Social Democrats (SPD) sweep to an absolute majority with 54.8 per cent of the vote, ended 38 years of continuous Christian Democratic rule in the northern state.

Herr Kohl's party won 33.3 per cent, a loss of 9.3 percentage points on the election last September. Its Free Democrat (FDP) allies, with only 4.4 per cent, failed to qualify for parliamentary seats.

In the new State Assembly in Kiel, where Herr Björn Engholm, aged 48, will be Prime Minister, the Social Democrats will have 46 seats, a gain of 10, and the Christian Democrats 27 seats, a loss of six. The only other party in Parliament will be the Danish-speaking minority's South-Schleswig Voters' Association (SSW), which does not need a minimum 5 per cent of the vote and will have one MP.

Herr Kohl conceded yes

terday that the Christian Democrats in Schleswig-Holstein — still under the shadow of the "Barschel affair" in which its late Prime Minister, Uwe Barschel, tried to smear Herr Engholm during last year's election campaign — could not have won the poll.

Herr Kohl said yesterday

### ELECTION RESULTS

Change in voting and seats

Party % vote Seats

SPD 54.8 (+9.5) 46 (+10)

CDU 33.3 (-9.3) 27 (-6)

FDP 4.4 (-0.8) 0 (-4)

Green 2.3 (-1.0) 0 (0)

SSW 1.7 (+0.2) 1 (0)

Other 2.5 (+1.3) 0 (0)

Electors: 2.04 million

Turnout: 77.4% (+0.5)

that "other aspects", such as the Bonn Government's plans for wide-ranging reforms on tax, health insurance schemes and postal services and telecommunications had also played a role in the defeat.

Now the reforms are the hostage of Herr Kohl's own side in the Bundesrat (upper house) in Bonn which represents state governments.

The tax and health insurance programmes are facing

opposition not only from the Social Democrats, the Greens and the trade unions, but also sharp criticism from at least two Christian Democrat state prime ministers.

After the Christian Democrat disaster in Schleswig-Holstein, Herr Kohl and his partners, the Free Democrats and the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), have only a five vote, 23-18, majority over the Social Democrats in the Bundesrat.

If Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Prime Minister of Bavaria and CSU leader, wishes to torpedo a Bonn government bill he has only to abstain from voting.

The same power lies in the hands of the other critics of the reforms — Herr Ernst Albrecht and Herr Lothar Späth, the Christian Democrat Prime Ministers of Lower Saxony and Baden-Württemberg, respectively. Only last week Herr Albrecht was the prime mover behind an upper house vote to block the tax reform if the Bonn Government would not agree to share the annual national social welfare cost of DM25 billion (about £8 billion) on a 50-50 basis with the 11 states.

## Royal seal of approval for Hawke's democratic showpiece Aboriginal land protest mars tour's highspot

From Christopher Morris, Canberra

The anger of Australia's Aboriginal people marred the nation's biggest and most important showpiece event of the bicentenary year, the royal opening of the new £500 million Parliament House yesterday.

Hundreds of Aborigines converged overnight on the federal capital and set off at dawn to march to Australia's new parliamentary building.

"What do we want? Land rights, we want! Land rights, we want! Land rights, we want!" the militant mood of the protesters took officials by surprise. The Aborigines had travelled from all over Australia since this was their last opportunity, before the royal tour ends today, to vent their anger and frustration.

All police leave was cancelled and reinforcements called in, but apart from the constant chanting which penetrated deep inside the parliament's Great Hall during the opening ceremony, the Aborigines kept their promise to make their protest peaceful.

Five hours before the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were due to arrive the Aborigines had already taken up positions outside the main entrance. They draped their beards along the walls while the older women stripped down to skirts, applied white body paint and then solemnly began the traditional Aboriginal "Corroboree" — a ceremonial meeting and dancing.

The protest, which has been all this year about the loss of their lands, they first came to petition the Queen to being a symbol of Australian unity and democracy.

Instead, she spoke of the new parliament building as a symbol of Australian unity and democracy.

### Election in Denmark

## Nato fears poll gamble may fail

From Richard Owen, Copenhagen

Nato diplomats said yesterday that a clear victory for Mr Poul Schlüter, the Conservative Danish Prime Minister, would mean the end of the right-wing Danish People's Party, which stands even further to the left.

Although Denmark joined the EEC along with Britain in 1973, it still feels closer to its Nordic neighbours — two of whom, Sweden and Finland, are neutral — than it does to other Europeans. Similarly, although the immediate post-war Soviet threat brought Denmark into Nato, many Danes feel drawn to the idea of a Nordic non-nuclear zone.

The feeling is even shared on the right. Mr Mogens Glistrup's Progress Party suggests that Danish defence policy should consist of a tape recording with a voice saying "We surrender" in Russian.

Denmark's minimal contribution to shared alliance costs is no joke, however, from Nato's point of view. With Soviet northern bases and submarine pens just around the corner, Nato sees the Danish Baltic approaches — the Skagerrak and the Kattegat — as crucial to Western defences. Beyond lies the Greenland-Iceland-Britain gap through which Soviet forces would come in time of war.

Some observers believe Mr Schlüter deliberately chose the Nato issue to try and increase his electoral support, and that in so doing he may have miscalculated. Mr Schlüter's hope, and the hope of many of his fellow leaders in Nato is that the Danes will send his hitherto fragile four-party centre-right coalition back to the Folketing with an increased majority.

This, in the words of Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Foreign Minister, would finally put an end to Denmark's reputation as a troublesome ally in both Nato and the EEC.

A Schlüter victory would be a triumph to match the referendum last year on the Single European Act and Danish national sovereignty, when the Government gambled — correctly — that anti-EEC feeling would not translate into a move to leave the EEC.

## Briton murdered

A British tourist was stabbed and killed in a Turkish resort town on the Aegean, the Foreign Office said yesterday (Nicholas Boston writes). A spokesman said that Mr Peter Holden died on Sunday afternoon in Marmaris and that two Turks were being questioned by police about his murder. Turkish newspaper reports said that Mr Holden, a chef from London, was travelling through Turkey in a caravan on holiday.

### 'Ivan' appeal

Jerusalem — John Demjanjuk's appeal against his death sentence for the crimes of "Ivan the Terrible" will not be heard until December.

### Deadly jabs

Bombay (AP) — Three children who died after anti-leukemia jabs at Tata Memorial hospital were the victims of bacterial contamination.

### Panda killers

Hong Kong (AFP) — A Chinese court jailed three men for life for killing giant pandas for their fur, news reports from Peking said here.

### Aids screen

Taipei (Reuters) — All foreign students will have to take an Aids test before entering Taiwan universities this year, the Education Department said.

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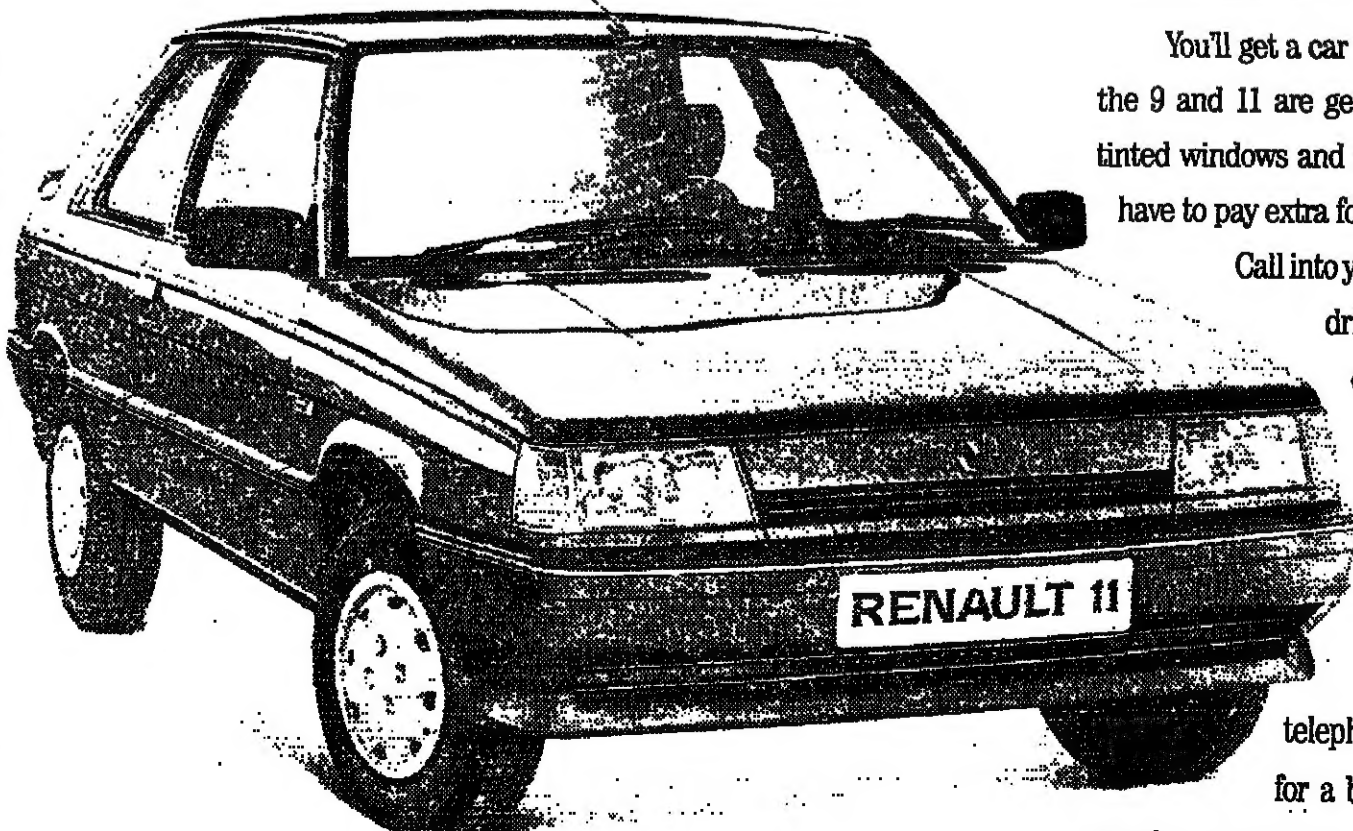
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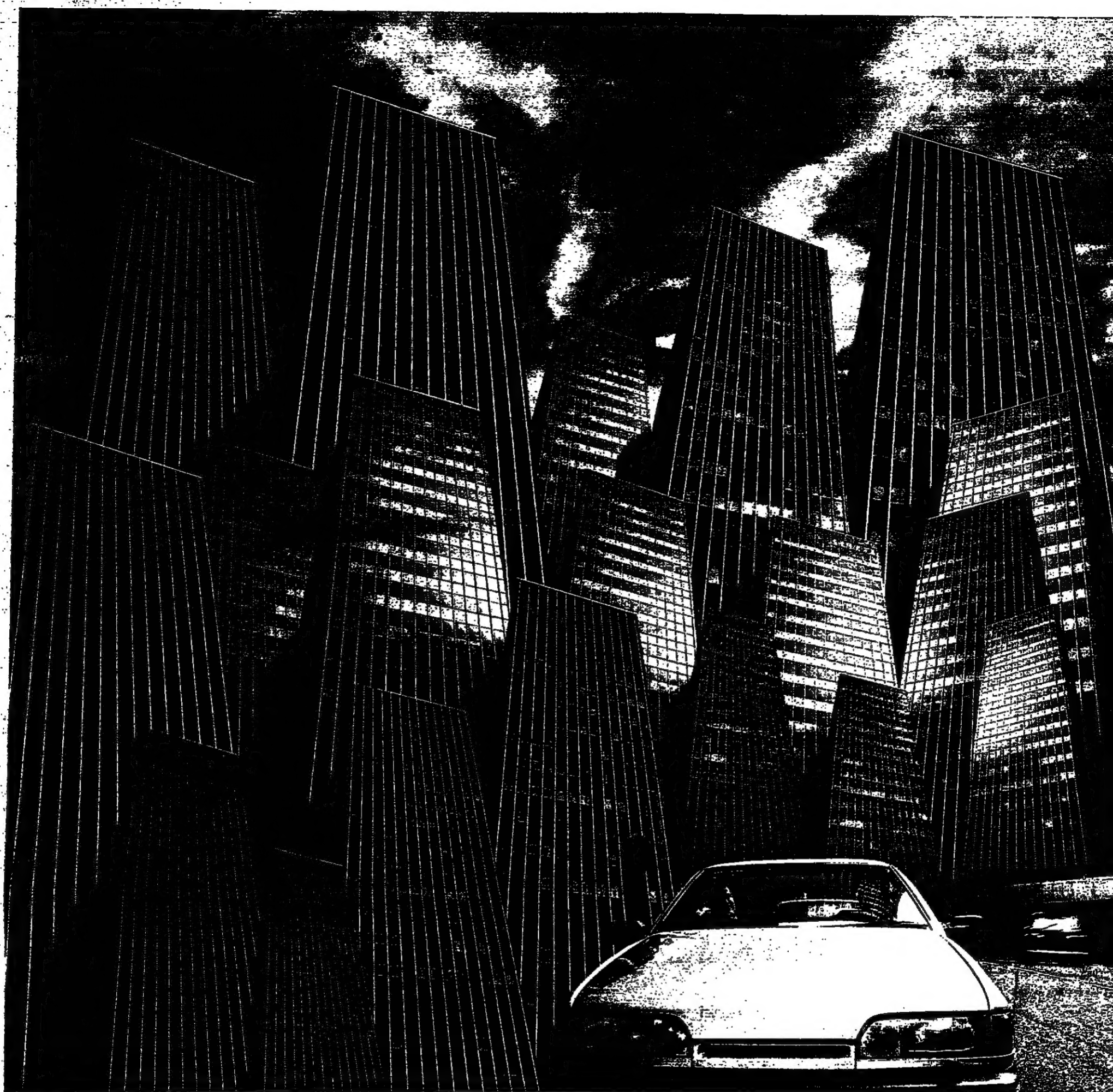
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# Gandhi crackdown looms after Sikh temple battle

By Anatol Lieven

There was an increasing likelihood yesterday of a fresh move by Indian security forces against Sikh militants operating from the Golden Temple in Amritsar after four people were killed and seven wounded, including a senior policeman, in the second gun battle at the complex in two weeks.

Fighting flared after the wounding of Deputy Inspector General S.S. Virk of the Central Reserve Police Force who had been leading a patrol outside the temple when shots came from inside.

According to reports from the city, now under curfew, police returned fire with machine guns. The dead, all passengers, reportedly included three worshippers and an Indian Red Cross worker.

Tension had been rising during the past week since police intervened to stop militants inside the temple, thought to number about 80, from reinforcing the complex by building a new wall. Armed extremist groups have been filtering back into the temple in recent months, as the Government, in an effort to reduce Sikh resentment, has adopted a more restrained policy.

But there are now fears that the gunmen are once more fortifying the maze of build-

ings, as was the case before the Indian Army operation against the original Sikh extremist base in 1984.

More than 800 people have been killed in Punjab so far this year, including 34 policemen. This compares with some 1,230 for the whole of last year.

Over the weekend, 13 Hindus were killed at a wedding reception in the neighbouring state of Haryana, raising fears of a fresh Hindu backlash against Sikhs living outside Punjab.

It is thought that the upsurge in separatist attacks may be in part a response to moves to find a compromise solution to the conflict. These received a boost on Sunday when the Sikh High Priest, Mr Jasbir Singh Rode, declared that he personally could accept a solution for Punjab within the Indian union, and falling short of full independence for a Sikh state of Khalistan.

This would depend on Sikh rights and identity being guaranteed, and Sikh grievances being redressed, he said. The interview was reported on the BBC External Services and is to be broadcast in Britain on Newsnight.

The 34-year-old Mr Rode is the nephew of late Sikh religious leader, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who started the

separatist movement and was killed in the 1984 army assault. Mr Rode was released from internment by the Indian Government in March of this year and was promptly installed as High Priest on the strength of militant support and his uncle's name.

It is widely believed, however, that his release was part of an informal agreement by which Mr Rode would seek to use his influence to bring about a settlement to the conflict.

Until Sunday he has been very careful to make no overt statement either for or against the idea of Khalistan. However, his public statements have been noticeably cooler than has become the norm among the militants and he has denounced the killing of "innocents".

The armed separatists have always been reluctant to openly admit to the massacres of civilians blamed on them by the Indian authorities. There have been some signs lately that the Sikh population is becoming increasingly sickened by the level of violence, and especially by the mass killings of whole families.

Mr Rode is believed to have the support of two of the main Sikh militant organizations, loosely grouped behind the so-called "Panthic Committee",

and to be opposed by three of them. In the past few days tension between these factions within the Golden Temple has led to exchanges of verbal abuse and the brandishing of weapons.

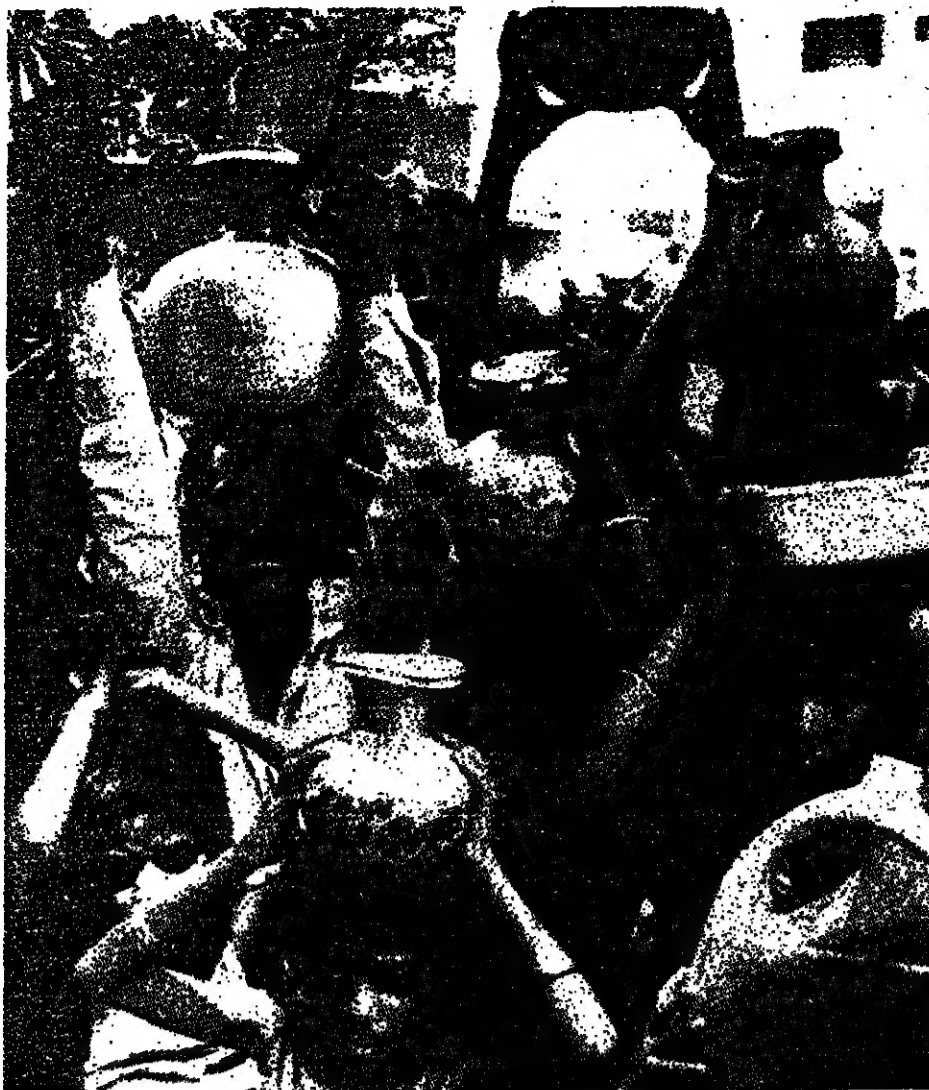
It is thought possible, therefore, that uncompromising elements from the so-called "Khalistan Commando Force" and other separatist groups may be launching deliberately provocative attacks in order to sabotage any moves towards a settlement.

Observers say that if their latest actions do in fact lead to a fresh army assault on the Golden Temple, they would have probably succeeded in their objective, as the resulting Sikh outrage would make peace moves impossible for some time.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has been under increasing criticism for his handling of the Punjab crisis ever since he dismissed the moderate Sikh Government of Punjab last year. The reason given was its failure to combat terrorism, but since then the killings have increased.

With an election coming up within the next two years, and possible as early as this autumn, Mr Gandhi may feel the need to make some spectacular gesture.

## Plea for water in parched city



Dhaka residents protesting over the lack of adequate water supplies in the Bangladeshi capital, where the shortage is forcing citizens to queue up before dawn at roadside taps.

Dhaka (Reuters) — Nearly 500 men, women and children demonstrated in Dhaka yesterday, demanding adequate supplies of drinking water for the Bangladeshi capital's four million people.

"Give us water to quench unbearable thirst," they shouted outside government buildings. "Clean the water sources of germs and insects."

Thousands of Dhaka residents scramble around roadside taps and wells every morning to fill jars. Witnesses say queues form before dawn, but not everyone gets a share.

Municipal authorities say water was short throughout the year because the supply was only half the required 180 million gallons a day. In addition, some water treatment plants were so old that supplies often carried germs and other objects.

Meanwhile, heavy rains in the past week have eased months of near-drought in northern Bangladesh.

Environmentalists blame the water scarcity partly on indiscriminate tapping of underground sources for irrigation. They also say that cutting trees for fuel could turn the area along Bangladesh's northern border with India into a desert.

On May 11, the western Indian state of Rajasthan, in its fourth year of drought, has banned official entertainment — ranging from foreign travel and official dinners to providing visitors with tea — to save money.

## Russians may keep Afghan border toe-hold

By Edward Gorman

One of the many imponderables being assessed by Afghanistan watchers now that the Soviet Union has decided to withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops is whether Moscow — or perhaps Kabul — will try to establish a ramp state in the north of the country, based on the provincial capital of Mazar-e Sharif.

Throughout the Soviet occupation there have been consistent indications that Balkh and the eight other northern provinces along the Soviet border have been treated as separate and potentially independent, from the central and southern areas of Afghanistan, and, as one analyst in Washington put it, the possibility of the Russians now trying something in the north "is on everyone's list of future options".

Observers point out that a natural ramp or buffer zone north of the Hindu Kush — similar to Israel's self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon — could be easily supplied from the southern Soviet Union within the agreed interpretation of the Geneva peace accords. Such a zone could provide Moscow with an interim or face-saving solution to the Afghan debacle in the event of Kabul being defeated by the Mujahidin resistance. Perhaps more importantly, it would also help to stave off what the Russians see as the potentially dangerous spread of Islamic fundamentalism into the southern Soviet republics.

Others argue that the impetus for a northern "republic" may come not from Moscow but from Kabul if President Najibullah, facing growing military pressure on the capital, decided to cut his losses and re-establish his regime in the north where the Soviet Union could hardly ignore him.

There are still others, however, who dismiss the whole concept of "fortress north", arguing that it goes directly against Mr Gorbachev's apparent determination to rid himself of his Afghan commitment, and that it would be extremely difficult to sustain in practice.

But the evidence that something could be in the offing is hard to ignore. As early as 1983, the Soviet-backed Kabul Government was warning guerrillas in the region that if they did not curtail their insurgency Moscow might try to partition the area. At about the same time, analysts noted concerted efforts by the Russians to strengthen Mazar-e Sharif both politically and militarily.

There also appears to have been a decision to prevent the wholesale destruction of the

north — traditionally the most prosperous wheat-growing region of the country, endowed with valuable oil and natural gas deposits — which has been steadily tied into the economic and social orbit of the south, predominantly Muslim, Soviet republics with a long series of industrial and cultural treaties.

More recently, President Najibullah created the position of Deputy Prime Minister for the North, unusually embracing both defence and interior ministry portfolios; reorganized the provinces along the Soviet border under one regional authority; and announced the establishment of a new province called Sari Pol out of southern Balkh and neighbouring Jowzjan province.

Regime officials, however, reject Western interpretations of these developments, arguing that recent moves in the north are merely part of a national plan to reorganize the whole country and provide better co-ordination of development as the task of reconstruction begins after the Soviet withdrawal.

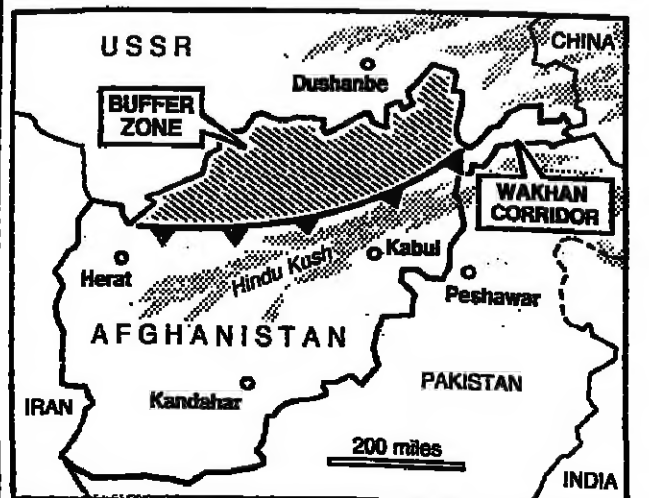
One other area of possible controversy in the region is the Wakhan corridor — a strategically important strip of mountainous land in north-eastern Afghanistan which borders Pakistan to the south, China to the east and the Soviet Union to the north.

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, however, its status has been something of a mystery. Soviet troops moved into the corridor in May 1980 and quickly gained control over it. Western military analysts have since speculated that the Russians have built significant bases in the Wakhan and from time to time there have been rumours of construction of missile silos and intelligence facilities. It was also widely believed that a treaty was signed in or around June 1980 by the then Afghan President Babrak Karmal permanently ceding the territory to the Soviet Union.

There was some surprise that the Wakhan was not specifically mentioned or written into the Geneva peace accords, and for a while it was still unclear whether or not it was being treated as part of Afghanistan and thus to be handed back to Kabul after the Soviet withdrawal.

But State Department officials in Washington now say that past estimates of Soviet military commitments in the corridor have been exaggerated and the 1980 treaty was never signed.

They remain confident that Soviet troops will leave the Wakhan.



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CAR HIRE

RETAIL

AUTO SERVICES

AMEX SERVICES

- MEMBERSHIP FEES

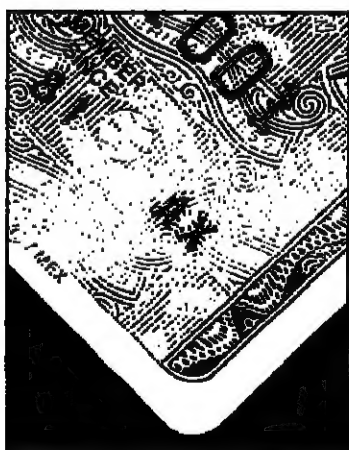
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194.75	26.37	24.30	-	128.00	210.63	770.62
-	180.00	369.30	-	-	450.00	2,442.10
150.40	3,855.00	-	-	1,088.50	-	4,474.70
-	85.44	162.75	21.51	-	-	1,800.00
276.29	131.72	14.49	-	-	-	75.00
-	-	75.00	-	-	115.00	115.00
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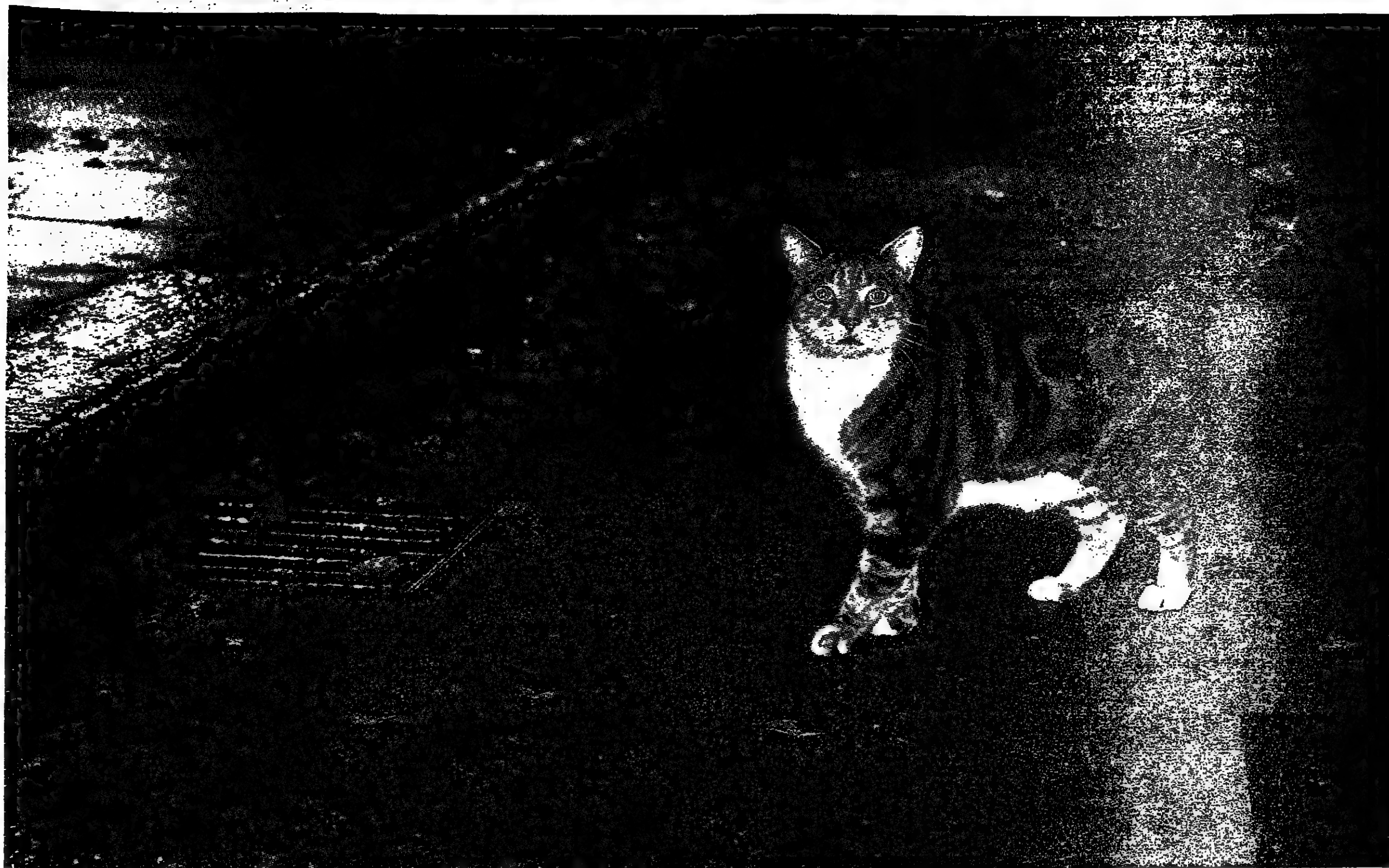
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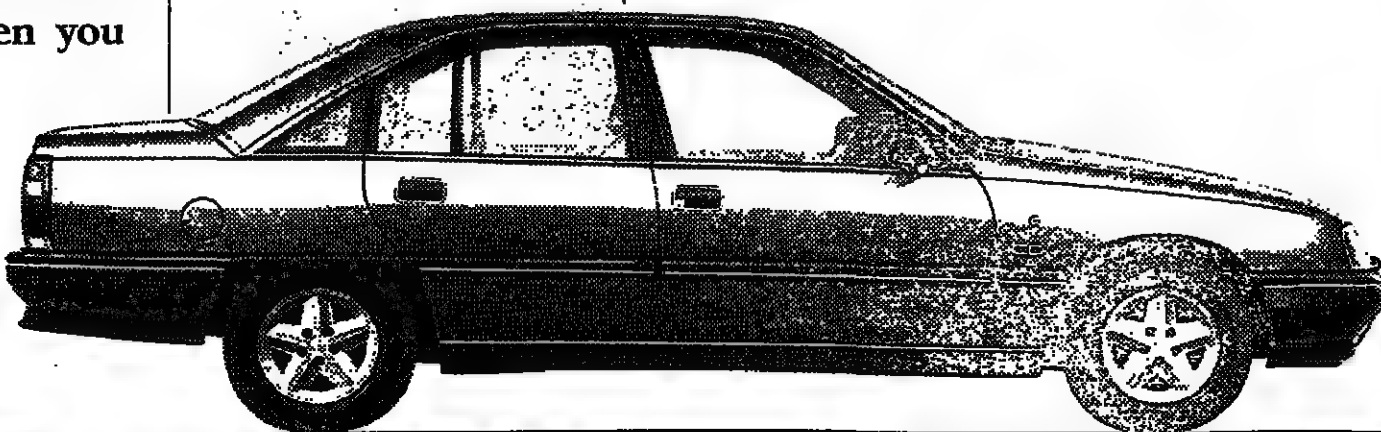
The front seats are orthopaedically designed and what's more, every model also comes with height adjustable seat belts.

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# Most of Cabinet 'opposes the Tory poll tax'

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead told his fellow peers he could discover no members of the present Cabinet, apart from Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nicholas Ridley, who supported the Government's poll tax proposals.

He described the Local Government Finance Bill, aiming to replace rates with the poll tax, or community charge, as socially unjust, geographically perverse and administratively cumbersome.

He was one of nearly 50 peers who spoke in the Bill's second reading debate, most of whom urged the Government to relate poll tax more closely to the ability to pay.

Lord Jenkins said that the House of Lords should not feel inhibited from playing any significant role in relation to the Bill. The constitutional precedents were complicated and had been best set out in *The Times* last Wednesday by William Wade, a constitutional expert.

Referring to the correspondence between himself and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone in the letters columns of *The Times*, he said that the former Lord Chancellor had performed a remarkable U-turn on the constitutional role of the House of Lords compared to what he had said in the Dimsdale lectures in 1976.

The inclusion of the community charge in the Conservatives' 1987 election manifesto might have a varying influence. But it had to be set against the fact that the Government had lost three-quarters of its Commons majority on the issue.

Every day more and more people who normally supported the Government were turning away from the proposals and so the Government should at the very least be given a chance to think again.

The Bill was manifestly unpopular among Conservative

## HOUSE OF LORDS

MPs and Conservative local authorities and also among independent experts and the public at large. Individually these might not be decisive arguments against the proposals, but cumulatively they became impressive.

"The Bill has become one of the biggest inverted pyramids ever seen."

The Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for Environment, said that as a result of the legislation local government would be in a far stronger position to assert its right to decide the quantity and quality of services.

The present rating system was monstrously unfair and not based on ability to pay. The Bill was about the accountability of local councils - it was not a new objective, the search had begun in the early 1970s.

About nine million of those on low incomes would pay less than the full amount of the community charge because of the concessions announced by the Government. Certain groups would be exempt and amendments would be introduced by the Government at the committee stage in the Lords to exempt monks and nuns.

The Government was concerned about the plight of clergy and would consider their concerns.

The reform would reduce the rates bill for business in the North and Midlands by £700 million every year with £350 million of the reductions in the hard-pressed, inner-city areas.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, chief Opposition environment spokesman, said that Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Environment, had commented that it was not right that a duke should pay more than a dustman.

There were more dukes in the upper House than dustmen. But

the dukes might feel that there was something profoundly unjust about the idea that a dustman should pay the same as a duke for local government.

The proposals would bring an increase in central government interference, with 75 per cent of local expenditures likely to come from government grant compared with the present 46 per cent.

The poll tax would drive millions off the register, particularly young people and the ethnic minorities, and deprive them of the right to vote.

Lord Harman-Nicholls (C): That is their decision.

Lord McIntosh replied that people would find ways to avoid being identified and it would deprive them of a vote.

In his maiden speech, the Earl of Lytton (Ind), a chartered surveyor, feared that some business ratepayers in London and the South-east could expect to be adversely affected by the proposals and small businesses were particularly concerned.

In the end, if councils wanted to spend more because determined people got into office then abuses might flourish as before.

The Bishop of Gloucester, Dr John Yates, said that the church leaders and bodies that had expressed concern about the proposals were not wide-eyed idealists out of touch with reality. Many were in the areas where the greatest fears had been expressed.

If it was not possible to change the Bill in principle, there should be more generous amendments offered by the Government, not only because of the threat to some of the worst-off in the community but also in order perhaps to induce a semblance of a somewhat different spirit in the legislation.

It was necessary to change the general effect of the Bill, which seemed harsh and unfeeling and threatening to those who were vulnerable.



Lord McIntosh (left) and Lord Jenkins, who both criticized the Government's community charge proposals

## The Finance Bill

# SLD tenants move defeated

## TREASURY

An attempt by the Social and Liberal Democrats to increase the protection of private tenants who might be threatened by changes in the business expansion scheme was made when the Commons resumed the committee stage of the Finance (No 2) Bill, which brings the budget into effect.

Mr Alan Beith, the party's spokesman on Treasury matters, moved an amendment which, he said, was intended to give some protection to tenants who might otherwise be exploited.

He said that the Government's proposed use of the business expansion scheme to attract private capital into the private rented sector should not be dismissed out of hand. But it should be tailored so as to ensure that there was adequate protection for tenants.

For example, a company that

wanted to make a lot of money quickly could go into an area where there was a shortage of private rented housing, buy up properties and, having had the benefit of the business expansion scheme to finance the operation, use its monopoly power to push up rents in that area.

The purpose of his amendment was to ensure that the rents had to be set at reasonable levels, as determined by a rent assessment committee under the Housing Act, 1988.

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that in the past Conservative and Labour governments had not gone far enough in giving freedom to the landlord

to charge a market rent. The new assured tenancy scheme would allow landlords and tenants to agree any rent they chose. The Government believed the right way of achieving reasonable rents was to allow them to be decided by competition and market forces.

The result of attempts to restrict rents in the past had been to cause property to leave the private sector or not to appear.

People who wanted to rent and were willing to pay a market rent found no property available. There had been almost no worthwhile investment in rented property for 50 years. The sector was in decline.

It was doubtful if the proposed amendment would have any effect because, under the Housing Act, the rent assessment committee would deter-

mine the rent only where the landlord proposed an increase in periodic tenancies and where tenants chose to refer it to the committee.

The committee had no role in initiating rents charged and no role in fixing rents where the mechanism for increase was built into the tenancy agreement. The Housing Act allowed the committee to determine rents which might reasonably be expected in the open market with a reasonable landlord.

Mr Gordon Brown, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said that the amendment would not save any money, no rents would be reduced and no family would be better off as a result. It showed a total misunderstanding of the role of the rent assessment committee. The amendment was rejected by 221 votes to 145 - Government majority, 76.

## Museums likely to get £20m

In the initial stages of the introduction of museum charges there was a drop in attendance, but it picked up later, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said at a question time.

At the National Maritime Museum, admissions were up by 16 per cent last year over the previous year.

He expected national museums and galleries to raise £20 million in the present financial year from non-grant sources, including catering and trading. That would not affect their government grant.

He confirmed that there would be no reduction or adjustment to the grant of any of the national museums and galleries on account of any extra private-sector income.

# P&O emergency debate refused

In an unsuccessful attempt to secure an emergency debate on the P&O dispute, the Opposition spokesman said that if the Herald of Free Enterprise were sailing tonight from Zeebrugge under the P&O proposals, it would have 15 fewer crew than on the night it sank.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the insistence by P&O that its package of 400 job cuts, increased working hours, less leave and a pay cut should be implemented almost immediately had provoked the 14-week strike.

The National Union of Seamen had repeatedly made clear its willingness to accept the P&O proposals if they were phased in over three years - well in advance of the Channel tunnel - which was what P&O originally indicated. The NUS had been willing to accept binding arbitration, but the company had rejected it.



Mr Meacher: Safety of public is at stake

"The safety of the public is at stake in these proposals. If the Herald of Free Enterprise were sailing tonight from Zeebrugge

under these P&O proposals, it would have 15 fewer crew than on the night of March 6 last year when it went down."

There were dangers involved in untrained crews, reduced crewing levels and 18-hour shifts. It was important for the public and for seamen that the safety risks in these proposals were fully known and publicly scrutinized.

The difficulties of resolving the dispute by negotiation were coming to a head. The primary dispute with P&O at Dover might harden to the point where compromise became difficult, if not impossible.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that he understood that there was a serious matter. There were days when the Opposition could choose the subject of debate. There was question time. There were plenty of opportunities to raise these matters.

# Thatcher's press aide is attacked

Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, ought to be paid from Conservative Party funds in view of the way he had talked over the weekend about the institutionalized hysteria of the press, Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said during question time.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Civil Service, said that Mr Dalyell was trying to dredge up old issues because Mrs Thatcher had been such an outstanding success as a Prime Minister of great integrity.

Mr Dalyell said that in an adjournment debate (on April 22) he had referred in detail to a statement by Sir Frank Cooper, the former permanent secretary, that Mr Ingham ought not to be in the Civil Service while performing his present role.

Mr Luce: In the adjournment debate and again now he seeks

to dredge up the old issues which have already been dealt with in answers (Labour protests). The reason he does it is because he knows that the Prime Minister has been such an outstanding success.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab) had earlier raised the subject during a question about reorganization of the Civil Service, when he asked whether steps could be taken to reorganize the post of press secretary to the Prime Minister, a role in which Mr Ingham went out of his way to give warnings to the press and media generally about what they should or should not publish.

Mr Luce: This is a matter principally for the Prime Minister, but there is no shadow of doubt of the outstanding calibre of Mr Ingham and of the job he does.

# Parkinson defends procedure to ensure power supply

After privatization, all generators of electricity would have a commercial and contractual interest in ensuring that the power-supply system did not fail in an emergency, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons questions.

Operating procedures in emergencies would be set out clearly in their contracts, and the ability of the grid controllers to manage emergencies should be unaffected, he added.

"We believe any costs will be outweighed by the benefits of competition and diversity."

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) asked why the Government thought that it knew better than Lord Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Mr Parkinson said that Lord Marshall, though a learned and powerful figure in the industry, was only one voice. Many others in the industry knew just as

much about transmission as did Lord Marshall, but did not agree with him. The president of the Institute of Electrical Engineers was one.

The Government's own professional advisers had said that what the Government wanted to do was technically possible. Lord Marshall accepted that. But he believed that there would be costs involved.

"We believe those costs are sustainable and will be more than outweighed by savings from diversity."

Mr Peter Rost (Erewash, C) asked what assessment Mr Parkinson had made of the benefits that would come when area boards were able to use the grid to shop around for competitive prices from new private producers.

Mr Parkinson said that this was precisely the sort of competition and diversity of electricity supply that would give

## Cost-cutting fears

Fears about the effect of "cost-cutting exercises" were raised by a Labour MP during Commons questions about the privatization of the electricity industry.

Mr Robert Croy (Bradford South, Lab) said that privatization and competition involved such exercises in order to increase profits. What guarantees were there that directors of any privatized sector would not be as incompetent and criminally responsible as the directors of Townsend Thoresen?

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said that Mr Croy was making the mistake of assuming that profits could come only from cost-cutting, which implied dismissing people and behaving in an anti-social manner.

Efficiency could be a useful source of profit and a useful source of help to the customer, who got a better price.

rise to price competition and benefit customers and compensate for some of the extra costs of ensuring that the system remained safe.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said that the arguments would

under privatization would be "far more expensive and likely to be the most expensive in Europe".

Mr Parkinson said that the company that Mr Prescott had mentioned "is not entirely unbiased". It made its living by advising people how to reduce their power bills, so it had a vested interest in pretending that bills were extremely high.

"It has a totally unrepresentative sample of customers. We prefer to believe the CBI and the Electricity Council, who have agreed figures."

During other energy questions, Mr Parkinson denied suggestions that electricity prices in Britain were among the highest.

Miss Joyce Quinn (Gateshead East, Lab) had asked for his reaction to the report by National Utility Services, which she said, showed that the United Kingdom was becoming the

most expensive country in terms of electricity prices because of the strictures imposed by the Government on the industry.

What initiatives was the Government going to take to help those at the lower end of the income scale when electricity prices rose?

Mr Parkinson said that the company he mentioned drew its statistics from a very narrow range of its own customers. It did not pretend to cover the middle of the list in industrial terms and also in domestic prices.

Mrs Mildred Gordon (Bow and Poplar, Lab) said that because of the increasing cost of electricity, there were a growing

number of poor people who were late in making payments.

In London, these people were getting aggressive and unpleasant letters from electricity companies threatening them with court orders and with breaking into their homes and installing (pre-payment) electricity meters if they did not sign voluntary agreements.

These letters were going to people in hospital as well as to the elderly and were causing great distress.

Mr Parkinson said that under the code of conduct the electricity authorities did not disconnect supply to the homes of the elderly during the winter months.

The authorities were also always ready to listen to representations on behalf of consumers with real problems and in need of help in the staging of payments of their bills.

# Every strike 'lessens work prospects'

Every strike or work to rule lessened future prospects for the coal industry, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons questions.

He was replying to Mr Gregory Knight (North Derby, C), who said that those who worked in the coal-mining industry should be grateful to this Government, not only for supporting worthwhile investment but also for helping to create an excellent economic outlook for Britain.

The biggest threat to the industry and its jobs came from those who instigated unnecessary strike action, such as Mr Arthur Scargill, and those who supported it, such as Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Parkinson said that, since 1979, the Government had provided British Coal with £9 billion of grants, with substantial loan finance, and £6 billion

## ENERGY



Mr Knight: Workers should thank Government

of that had been spent on capital investment. It was important that strikes

and waste were eliminated. Provided they got modern working practices to go with the modern machinery and the capital investment, he foresaw a bright future for British Coal.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dumfriesshire West, Lab) said that much of the investment in Scotland had been in the Longannet complex and that had been endangered by the cavalier attitude of the South of Scotland Electricity Board in importing foreign coal at dump prices.

What steps had he taken to protect investment in the Scottish coalfield, which could get a return only if the coal was burnt in SSEB stations?

Mr Parkinson said that the Government was strengthening the inter-connector to England and Wales, which meant that there was a big potential market for the electricity produced from Scottish coal.

It was also encouraging Scottish miners, who had shown

great good sense about the adoption of modern working practices.

Even when the investment had been made, Scottish coal was still relatively expensive, so they had to find ways of reducing costs.

He was also encouraging the two parties to get together, so the Government was doing all it could to ensure that Scottish coal had a good future.

In answer to a later question, Mr Parkinson said that it was the Government's ambition, though it had no plans at present, to see the whole of the private industry returned to the energy sector.

But there was a limit to what it could do at any one time and privatization of the electricity supply industry was a big enough job to be getting on with. The Government did have ambitions for the rest of the industries for which it had responsibility.

# Peers accuse Thatcher of bias

By Sheila Gann  
Political Staff

Senior Labour peers fear that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is damaging the House of Lords by a marked bias throughout her Administration against the Opposition.

Her refusal to create any more "working peers" is tilting the balance more sharply in the Government's favour in the upper House.

Labour argues that this is damaging the role of the upper House as a revising chamber because, even when the Government loses an argument, it can still win the vote.

This is despite the fact that defeats for the Government this session have been coming from the Conservative side. If those predicted on the poll-tax and education legislation materialize, they are also likely to be launched by worried Conservative backbenchers.

Labour peers are supported in their claims by the latest figures, which disclose that, although the number of Conservatives who attend the House is steadily

## Changes in number of peers since 1982

	Labour			Conservative		
	Deaths	Additions	Net change	Deaths	Additions	Net change
1982	-8	+4	-4	-15	+8	-7
1983	-7	+8	+1	-10	+24	+14
1984	-6	+2	-4	-21	+10	-11
1985	-10	+7	-3	-13	+14	+1
1986	-4	+0	-4	-2	+8	+6
1987	-1	+11	+10	-13	+18	+5
Total	-39	32	-7	81	98	+17

growing, the Labour contingent is not only diminishing but also many are now so old or infirm that they can no longer be "whipped in" to vote.

The Prime Minister, despite the Conservatives' stance as "guardians" of the upper House, is understood to be reluctant to approve a new batch of life peers because she believes that they are liable to cause more trouble for her legislation.

The main problem stems from the continual trickle of new hereditary peers on to the Conservative benches.

While the Conservatives have in recent years gradually gained

ground in the Lords, the net loss for Labour has been 26, and this is a chamber where amendments are often won or lost by a handful of votes.

Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Labour peers, has gained 31 Labour life peers and one hereditary peer since 1982. That compares with a gain for the Conservatives of 57 peers who have succeeded to their titles and taken their seats in the Lords and another 42 created by Mrs Thatcher.

achieve a more balanced chamber.

Many of these, however, are now ageing and infirm. A total of 16 are not expected ever to be well enough to return to the House of Lords.

The figures for new peers for the former Liberals and present Democrats are equally poor because Mrs Thatcher has created only five new life peers, none of them young, since 1982.

Lord Tordoff, their chief whip, also has to fall back on a large number of elderly peers.

Mrs Thatcher relies increasingly on hereditary peers to man her front bench in the upper House. With the retirement of Lord Whiteley and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, there are no former Government spokesmen who have also served in the Commons.

Whereas the other parties want new, younger, peers to help in examining legislation, the Prime Minister rarely makes use of her life peers but tends to use the honours system for rewarding service to the party.

## £45m to repair rented homes

The Housing Corporation is expected to approve new schemes costing about £45 million for major repair of housing association dwellings, Mrs Marion Roe, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a written Commons reply to the Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, SLD).

The schemes will be concentrated on bringing empty properties back into use in areas of shortage. She added: "In the past, where the property was originally developed with local authority money, the corporation provided funding for repairs only in exceptional cases, but they have now been authorized to fund repairs wherever the local authority is genuinely unable to do so itself, on condition that the dwellings are then let to homeless people."

## Redundancies under fire

Mr David Nellist (Conventry South East, Lab) was unsuccessful in seeking an emergency debate on the announcement on Friday of 1,800 redundancies by GEC and Plessey at its new telecommunications company GPT.

He said that 40 per cent of the redundancies were expected to occur in Coventry. If the company had a cash-flow problem, the "Butcher of Bowden", Lord Weissenhof, could sell a couple of his ranches, for which he paid about £500,000 a time.

## Fair deal on Alton Bill

The debate on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill last Friday proceeded completely in good order and under the usual procedures, the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said during points of order.

He was responding to Mr Richard Luce (Bradford South, Lab), who had asked him to confirm the point in the light of press and television reports suggesting parliamentary mugging, foul play and, in one instance, cheating.

## 43% drop in coal jobs

The number of full-time employees in the coal industry has fallen by 43 per cent since February 1979, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said in a written reply.

At the end of February this year there were 123,822 employees in the industry.

## Scots tax

The Scottish Office has every reason to believe that the registration process for the community charge north of the border is going smoothly, Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said in a written reply.

## Defence costs

The annual White Paper on the defence estimates will be published next Tuesday, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said in a Commons written reply.

## HMSO titles

The Stationery Office has about 43,000 titles in print, Mr Peter Brooke, Paymaster General, said in a written Commons reply.

## New coins

The new 5p coin is to be issued in June 1990 and the new 10p in June 1992, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister; Finance (No 2) Bill, committee, third day. Lords (2.30): Education Reform Bill, committee, third day.



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# HE'S NOT IN RHODE ISLAND.



## BUT IT'S TIME TO MAKE HIS MOVE.

*"Herb. It's Thomas. I'll try Queen to King Two."*

*"Two days to come up with that?"*

*"Just you think about it."*

*"OK, OK. But are you man enough to accept defeat in person?"*

*"I'll accept your surrender."*

*"Hah! Here's one ticket to the States says you don't!"*

*"See you in a couple of moves!"*

The rest of this conversation is strictly tactical.

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For a lot less than you might think, AT&T and British Telecom can bring you closer to the ones you're close to in the USA.





# Crying out for a disaster squad

SARAH WILKINSON

Three years ago the Bradford fire shocked the country. After it came the tragedies of Chernobyl, Zeebrugge and King's Cross; yet our emergency services still have no national plan, reports Tony Dawe

Just before midnight on May 11, 1985 — three years ago tomorrow — Chief Superintendent Mark Rand was called from his bed to face the most daunting task of his police career. He was asked to supervise the identification of the 36 victims of the Bradford City football stadium fire. He was called in from neighbouring Halifax not because of any expertise but simply because he was the nearest senior officer yet to be assigned a major task in the tragedy. A match which was supposed to celebrate Bradford's promotion to the second division had ended in horror. And horror is what the Chief Superintendent felt as he faced up to his new job. "I wanted a disaster squad to come walking in, with the personnel and expertise to advise us," he recalled. "There was no time to identify what I needed or whom to call. One needed action then."

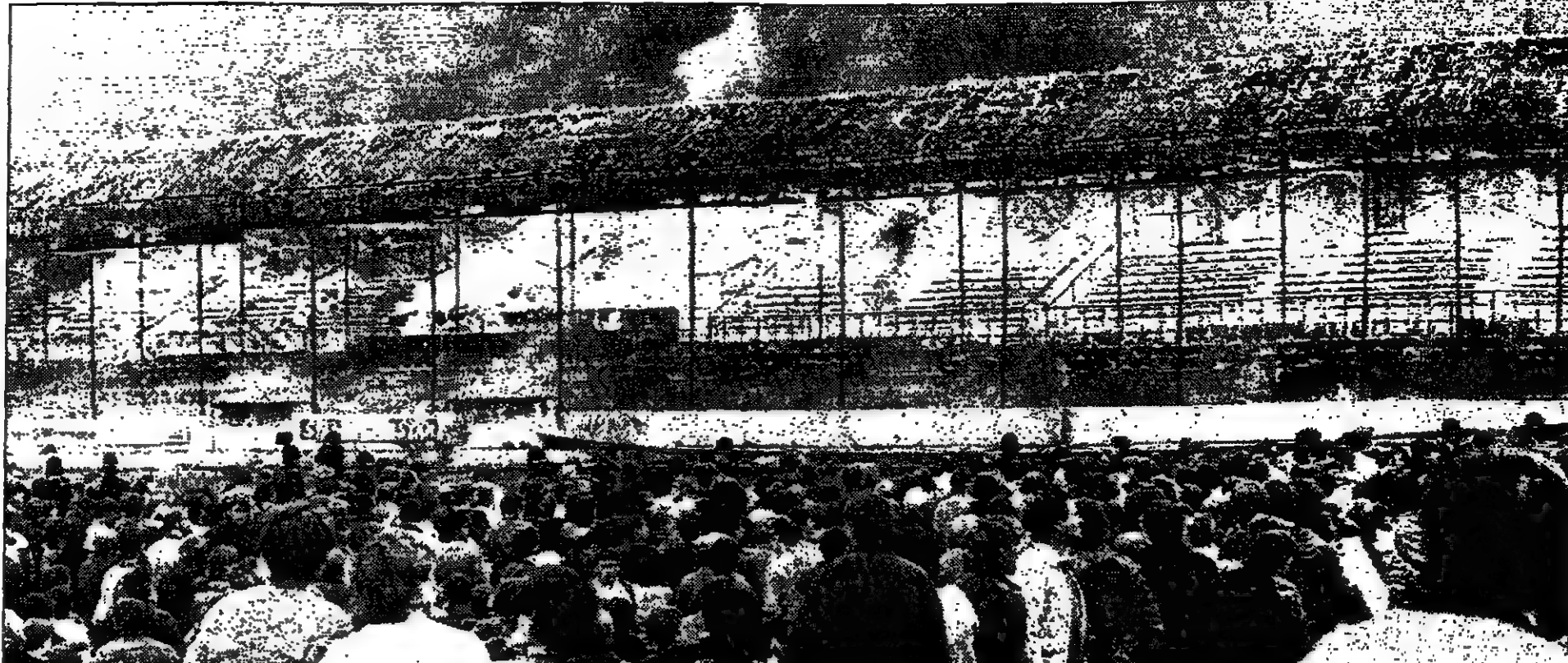
Having never done anything like that before, I would have welcomed the chaps from the fire brigades at Flixborough or Summerland with open arms. The point of impact is too late for research."

Despite the Bradford fire, and even after the tragedies of Zeebrugge and King's Cross, the officers who could face the next horror are still waiting for a national disaster squad to be formed.

While most industrialized Western nations have drawn up country-wide plans involving ministers and top advisers to confront any catastrophe, Britain leaves emergency planning largely to local authorities, police forces and fire brigades.

"The lack of any national organization means there is nobody to trigger the right sort of training for those charged with handling disasters. And no one to ensure that lessons learnt from previous tragedies are passed on," Brigadier John Bettbridge, principal of the Civil Defence College, the "think-tank" for wartime and peacetime emergency planning, told a recent conference.

There is not even any legal requirement for the planning to be done in the first place. The only type of potential disaster which is covered by regulations is an accident at a chemical works, petroleum refinery or similarly hazardous industrial site. The explosion at the Flixborough chemical works on South



Disaster day, May 11, 1985: the stand at Valley Parade, Bradford, at the height of the blaze. Officers had to be called in from neighbouring police forces to help handle the tragedy

Humberside in 1974, which killed 28 people, the disaster at Seveso in Italy and other accidents in Europe forced the EEC to impose new laws which were reflected in this country in the CIMAH (Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazard) regulations. They require manufacturers to draw up plans for emergencies on their sites and also demand that local authorities and the Health and Safety Executive plan their response to such a disaster so that rescue services can reach the plant and people living nearby

can be evacuated. It is typical of disaster planning in Britain, however, that there are no official plans for handling any emergency which might occur while one of the products is being transported around the country.

Indeed, while the port of Harwich has its combined accident plan and Britain's major airports have detailed emergency arrangements, it is unclear who would take charge should a ferry run aground on the coast of a county with no plan for such a disaster or an airliner crash in

and deputy head of the service, who would have called it out automatically, could not be contacted.

The London Fire Brigade has been criticized by Desmond Fennell, QC, chairman of the inquiry, for a breakdown in communications, partly because command at the incident passed to four different officers; one was in charge for just 60 seconds.

Dr Ken Hines, a member of one of London's accident units, has described the problems surrounding control of doctors and mobile medical teams at an emergency. "The first question to resolve is who the medical incident officer should be," he said. "A study of various disaster plans currently in use shows this person to vary between the duty gynaecological registrar, the consultant physician on duty, a medical registrar, a casualty officer, even a psychiatrist."



**'I wanted a disaster squad to come walking in, with the personnel and expertise'**  
Chief Supt Mark Rand

few experts believe the Government will go far enough. Will it even consider, for example, introducing a new law to make emergency planning compulsory and provide funds for it, as recommended by a high-level seminar at the Royal Military College of Science recently?

Will it even consider appointing a national disaster co-ordinator, as recommended by Dr Richard Sturt, the Kent coroner who conducted the inquiry into the 193 victims of the Zeebrugge tragedy, and Wing Commander Ian Hill, the pathologist who examined all the bodies?

They both believe that, in the same way that Barry Price, the former chief constable of Cumbria, has been appointed head of the National Drugs Intelligence Unit, one of his colleagues from the 51 other forces in the United Kingdom could become the national co-ordinator for peacetime emergency planning.

He would be charged with maintaining a national data base so that whatever piece of specialist equipment or service might be needed at a particular emergency could be located within minutes rather than days. He would be responsible for setting up a centre for the study of disasters to ensure that lessons learnt would be passed to the right people.

He would not necessarily take command of an incident in the way that the provincial governor Olivier Vanneste took control of the Zeebrugge disaster. But he would be available to give advice and could of course take command if an incident straddled county borders.

Wing Commander Hill has reflected on the difficulties since his Zeebrugge experience. He said: "I went there with no authority and therefore was able to work only because I knew personally many of the Belgians involved. We ought to be able to say 'we represent the British Government officially' and want to help you to solve this problem."

Bowel cancer is Britain's second-biggest cancer killer. By this time next year it will have killed 19,000 more people.

Like all cancers it starts as a single cell. Yet by the time it causes symptoms, an average tumour consists of millions of cells, and is often too advanced to treat.

Although it is not yet proven, it seems likely that earlier detection would improve the chances of successful treatment.

Unfortunately, diagnosis is often hindered by people's attitude.

## TESTING A CANCER-DETECTING TOILET PAPER IS EXPENSIVE. UNTIL YOU CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL SAVINGS.

One of our biggest problems in treating bowel cancer is that most people don't even want to think about it, let alone be tested for it.

Bowels and cancer. Two taboos in one illness.

However, recent developments may make it easier to overcome this obstacle. There are now variations of a test which can detect hidden traces of blood in the stool — an early warning sign of bowel trouble.

And so ICRF research workers have taken to studying these tests, including kinds of 'magic toilet paper'.

Preliminary studies indicate that people might be more willing to use these, and further trials are planned to confirm this.

At the same time we have to determine the accuracy of these tests, the most acceptable way of presenting them, and whether enough people will use them to make national screening programmes worthwhile.

(Assuming, that is, that other current research proves the effectiveness of screening.)

The... results of these investigations are being analysed by our special unit at St. Mark's Hospital.

But, like all our work, which includes more than one third of this country's total cancer research, it relies on public funding.

This year, the unit will cost £400,000 to run.

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Please send me information on how I can help by covenant/legacy/fund-raising (please delete) Send to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. I enclose a cheque for £

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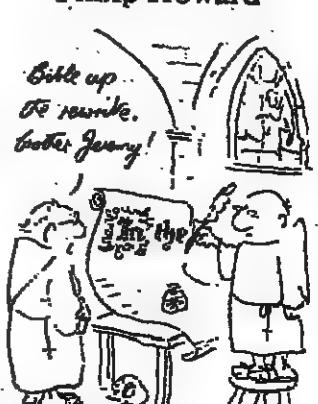
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**IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**

## Dry-run that noun

**NEW WORDS FOR OLD**  
Philip Howard



Quote of the week from an Australian rethor of Morgan's *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain* in paperback: "It's a wonderful book, and when you consider for \$22.50 you would only be able to purchase a couple of pairs of knickers and a tin whistle I would recommend buying this bargain instead." I wish I had said that. You will, Philip, you will.

English is the Lego language. We stick it together, adapt it, improvise, and add bits with more freedom than in any other language. That is why English is becoming the world language. One of the flexibilities we have is to use one part of speech as a quite different part. We turn nouns into adjectives, for headline brevity, or because we cannot be bothered with or do not like the existing adjective. So we say a luxury hotel, when we have luxurious; and a novelty act, when we have novel. This stringing together of a Lego-chain of attributive nouns misses opportunities for making distinctions. We write "a large picture gallery" when we could distinguish between a large gallery of pictures and a gallery of large pictures.

Another very fashionable way that we put the Lego blocks to a new use is to take a noun and turn it into a verb. There is nothing new about this process but it is more conspicuous now because of the vast increase in new nouns, created by the technology and science explosion of our new world.

To give you an example of what is going on, here is a (by no means exhaustive) list of

nouns that have started to be used as verbs in the past year or two:

To debut; to trend; to platform; to ink; to dialogue; to source; to bottom-line; to kangaroo; to black-box; to rabbi; to down-market; to dry-run; to excerpt; to back-to-back; to cog; to impact; to capsule; to shockhorn; to format (from Computerese, a turbid pond of dirty new jargon); to teapost; to author; to notice (review); to milestone; to table; to shelf; to haircut; to version; to signature; to video; to margin; to sole; to mainstream; to dimension; to dividend; to weekend; to spreadsheet; to palate; to on-velope (put in an envelope); to interface (with); to colour-scheme; to brainstorm; to total (write off); to plastic (use a credit card); to ticket; to

trough (eat vulgarly as a pig); to amnesty; to nicker-and-dime; to increment; to decernment; to slum; to sauce; to staff (edit a proposal); to backstop; to Hoover in; to arrow upwards; to valet; to payroll; to yardstick; to front-end; to resource; to grandstand; to target; to matrix; to timetable; to armslength; to remainder; to legend (not to peddle, dear, but to romanticise about, make a legend of); to carepath; to sideline; to transition; to guilt; to joint-venture; to receipt.

A different category is made by tagging the suffix -ize onto nouns: victorize, ballisticize, initialize, capsulize.

Quite a lot of these adapted Lego blocks are likely to be ephemeral in their new roles. Some of them are charming; for example, plastic is more fun than paying the bill with the old credit card. Quite a lot are obfuscations by professionals to blind us with gobbledygook and impress us with their professionalism: to target, to interface, to matrix, to bottom-line. This is showing off, like the probation officer who the other day wrote a report for the magistrates stating that her client had "a proneness to impulsivity."

But if we do decide to adopt some of these nouns permanently into the Lego-box of English as verbs, by another ancient trend we shall differentiate between noun and verb either by pronunciation and accent (use and use, Cathedral close and close the door, convert the heathen and a Catholic convert), or by spelling (half and halve, cloth and clothe, device and devise).



**The decision by Russian radicals to form a political party was greeted by KGB arrests at the weekend. Christopher Walker assesses the chances of the new Democratic Union and its leading sympathizer**

The three main groupings behind the Democratic Union

"It is significant that even at these early stages, it has attracted most of its backing from the most fringe organizations, already revealing the potential for division," said a senior diplomat. "Many things of importance start from small beginnings, but I think the outside world has to recognize just how small at the moment these are. The Communist Party's monopoly of power is still safe."



**Sergei Grigor'yants**, editor of *Glasnost*: the new group's founders needed his publicity skills

The swift action of the KGB in detaining over 20 people involved with the new party for a variety of unlikely reasons was seen by official sources as immediate confirmation that the programme of the "Democratic Union" does not conform with the narrow Soviet version of "socialist pluralism" which Gorbachev is out to encourage, but whose limits have yet to be properly de-

finer. Western envoys are convinced that the concept in no way encompasses the setting up of rival parties.

By far the best known figure associated with the new opposition grouping is Sergei Grigoryants, editor of the campaigning journal *Glasnost* and a former political prisoner, who did more than anyone else in the Soviet Union to get information about the recent mass unrest

in Armenia and Azerbaijan through the tight net of the Soviet censors and into the world's media.

Grigoryants, whose offices were raided again yesterday, was seen as a sympathizer with the new party rather than one of its main organizers. "The basic thing is that its founders needed his skills as a publicist and his willingness to face up to trouble with the security authorities," a Soviet

Half Armenian by birth, and a man with limitless energy for testing the limits of *glasnost*, Grigoryants told a separate weekend meeting of editors and journalists from 30 of the unofficial publications that have sprung up here since 1985 that there was a need to bring together the fragmentary groups in order to provide a viable alternative to the one-party system.

"I consider it very important to create a new political force, to prepare people for doing more than merely demonstrating with placards. The members would attempt to spread its influence among work colleagues and acquaintances by argument and discussion," he explained. "If, after a year or two, one succeeded in convincing even one per cent, that would be a remarkable achievement."

Over the past 20 years, Soviet dissidents have several times claimed that they were forming political parties to compete with the single ruling Communist Party, but their groupings have always been broken up under the relentless pressure of the KGB and as a result of internal squabbling, which has again emerged in recent months in the form of intense rivalry between the main *niformalny* groups, some of whom have their base in Leningrad.

The Democratic Union, is seen as perhaps the most

during internal challenge to the Communist Party so far, and one which could act as an inspiration to more cautious (some might say, less foolhardy) supporters of a pluralist democracy in which a genuine freedom of expression would be permitted in place of the strictly controlled and centrally directed version which still exists under Gorbachov.

**Y**uri Mityunov, an official spokesman for the Democratic Union, said yesterday that the party's platform called for a new constitution that would allow a multi-party system and parliamentary democracy inside the Soviet Union. It also advocated the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the Warsaw Pact nations in Eastern Europe.

Mityunov, not previously a widely known figure, acknowledged that the Democratic Union faced tremendous odds under the one-party system, but he put on an impressively brave face for western reporters, whose interest has inevitably been much greater than that demonstrated by their Soviet counterparts. "Gorbachov must tolerate our party if he wants to transform society. He has argued that economic transformation is impossible without democratic transformation."

- **Ingenuity** = a general knowledge; competition being played over 13 days, with 10 questions a day. The author of the first six correct entries to be opened at the end of the competition will each receive a set of the 1985 Encyclopedia Britannica, in a blue Constitution binding, worth \$3,280.
- The questions vary in difficulty. The answer to each question is a single word or name – but the number of letters in the answers do NOT correspond with the number of boxes – except for the longest of them.
- To some you may know the answers, but mostly you will need to use an encyclopedia and other reference books to ferret them out.
- Cut out this coupon and keep it until the end of the contest.

1. Insects that can be identified as potters, hairy legged miners, or blue carpenters.
2. Name of Wordsworth's cottage in Grasmere when he moved in.
3. City where the old sea-level of the Ordnance Survey Datum Line was until 1921.
4. Saint in whose square in Edinburgh stands Chambers' Royal Bank of Scotland.
5. The invention that connects Cullen, Coleman, and two Carrés with Alaska and white of egg.
6. Handicap founded in 1839 and named after a visiting prince.
7. Where, according to Johnson, a female atheist would talk you dead.
8. Inert gas which makes up 1 part in 670,000 of the atmosphere.
9. Number of characters that make up Pitman's i.t.a.
10. Sometimes has six or nine vertebrae in its neck instead of the usual seven.

ACROSS

- 1 Which portrait painter (8-4)
- 9 RN Gulf patrol (7)
- 10 Devil from (5)
- 11 Church central space (4)
- 12 Pronounce with initial "H" (8)
- 14 Waterily leaf (3)
- 15 Close wool cap (5)
- 16 Uncooked (3)
- 18 Scum (3)
- 20 Football boot projection (4)
- 22 Terminate early (5)
- 23 Put in danger (7)
- 24 Mount Whitney range (6-6)

DOWN

- 2 Which portrait painter (8-4)
- 3 RN Gulf patrol (7)
- 4 Devil from (5)
- 5 Church central space (4)
- 6 Pronounce with initial "H" (8)
- 7 Waterily leaf (3)
- 8 Close wool cap (5)
- 9 Uncooked (3)
- 10 Scum (3)
- 11 Football boot projection (4)
- 12 Terminate early (5)
- 13 Put in danger (7)
- 14 Mount Whitney range (6-6)

DWYN					
Nest aroused (?)	6 Nebraska USAF.	16 Receded (?)			
(?) Horned (?)	centre (5)	17 Extensivity (8)			
Writing up of notes	7 Sibling's daughter (5)	18 Complete disorder (5)			
(13)	8 Dose intermentally	19 Hangman's loop (5)			
Church vessels room	L3 Proposal resistor (8)	21 Wide boy (4)			
SOLUTION TO NO 1559					
1 ACROSS 1 Jamb	5 Panned	8 Rukmiesseum	10 Por	11 Adde	
12 Suspect 14 Sou	15 Able	16 Anthrax	17 Whirl	19 Pap	22 Black
Prince 23 Treaty	24 Trade				
DOWN 1 Jigster	2 Mace	4 Elevator	5 Nomed	6 Deplete	
7 Timp	8 Indur-	9 Subswart	14 Sawdust	15 Exproge	18 Un-
20 PCs	21 Drab				

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# TIMES DIARY

BARBARA AMIEL

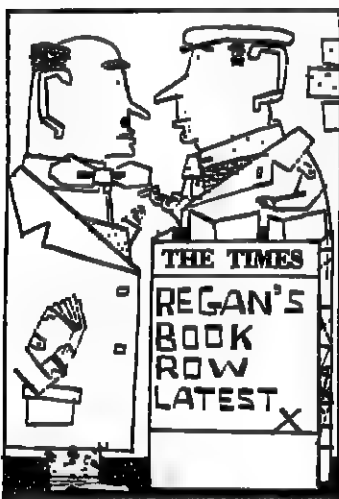
Arriving at the Hyde Park Hotel last week for the press conference given by Karoly Grosz, the prime minister of Hungary, I met an acquaintance. She was accompanied by a dissident Hungarian, aching to ask Mr Grosz some questions. We went upstairs together. For some reason, I simply cannot explain why, I kept noticing Mr Grosz's complexion, which was quite radiant and plumped. I suppose I noticed because I spoke to Mr Grosz's self-confidence and it contrasted so with the chain-smoking Hungarian next to me.

The Hungarian asked his questions about 1956 and the unmarked grave of the executed leader, Imre Nagy. Mr Grosz listened and replied easily. I felt painfully embarrassed. The embarrassment had to do with both the question of futility and of style. I felt awkward, I think, because no matter how right the side of one was, I was about to witness an uneven match between a seasoned politician and an awkward intellectual. The intellectual seems long-winded because he is used to another forum which requires skills very different from those needed at a press conference. He will always come off second best.

Refugee intellectuals also tend to lug around with them a sense of being aggrieved. They have been wronged, of course, but I don't think a press conference is the place to address or correct this. One simply cannot put the representative of a foreign government on trial in such a venue. My heart went out to the intellectual but I left early, my questions for Mr Grosz unasked.

Speaking of which, a Hungarian friend phoned me in a passionate froth about a conference on world literature in Lisbon last week. The British delegates, who included Jeremy Treglown, Malcolm Bradbury, Martin Amis and Salman Rushdie, had the common denominator of all complaining about the woes of living in the stifling and repressive atmosphere of Thatcher's England. This was said to the incredulous ears and raised eyebrows of delegates like Joseph Brodsky and Czeslaw Milosz, not to mention people still resident in countries where writers serve 20 or 30 years in prison for disagreeing with the regime. Rushdie's advance on his new novel, incidentally, is rumoured to be \$850,000, which will have increased in value by at least 20 per cent after Mr Lawson's last uncaring budget.

BARRY FANTONI



"I suppose it's another form of Star Wars"

I was a little bemused by Cardinal Basil Hume's reassurances about the shared roots of Christianity and Judaism. He made the remarks last week when presenting the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Award to Dr Elizabeth Maxwell. It was meant generously, of course, but speaking for myself I'd quite like Christians even if they had not originally been Jews.

Dr Maxwell is organizing a conference, "Remembering for the Future", at Oxford in July at which scholars will discuss the impact of the Holocaust on Christian-Jewish relations. Her acceptance speech developed the theme that the Nazi holocaust of the Jews was "undeniably" based on the essential conflict between Christianity and Judaism, inflamed by the church's teaching of contempt for the Jews. At the end of her talk an American rabbi got up and said: "Elizabeth Maxwell, I love you."

I suddenly had the uncomfortable feeling that I was guilty of a contemporary thought crime. As I listened to the speech I concluded that viewing the Nazi holocaust in total isolation from the many other holocausts is becoming a harmful and dangerous business. It diverts attention from present holocausts and creates the impression that it is only ideologies that are specifically racist or characteristic of the extreme right that are capable of such monstrous crimes. This seems to me a fundamental misreading of the situation and leads to the sort of a-historical idea that the Nazi atrocities were some sort of monstrous deviation of Christianity. Any group of people who decide that their aspirations entitle them to override the basic tenets of humanity are separated from a holocaust only by whether or not they have the means to carry it out. It's time for a conference on holocausts in the plural.

Driving into Abergavenny at the weekend with a friend's daughter I listened to her lament about being washed up at 18. It's the 15-year-olds who get all the attention, she said. She didn't know wild child Emma Ridley, though it was the fashion to claim to know her. She had been to Petra Brando's fifteenth birthday party and thought it was sad because the organizers charged admission. It all made precious little sense to me, although I sensed that if our culture continued the adoration of Mandy Smith etcetera we would simply be moving back to a practice quite common in other cultures and times. We have always known that individuals come to sexual maturity somewhere between the ages of 12 and 17 but recently we have tended to choose the upper rather than the lower point to determine the socially acceptable age for sexual activity. I suppose this has condemned a section of our young people to psycho-sexual inactivity when they are, *passim* Emma Ridley, ready for it. Still, there is some sense in life, I told her, uncertainly.

Paris  
Late on the night of the French presidential election, when it was abundantly clear that Jacques Chirac had gone down to catastrophic defeat, the usual assembly of prominent politicians trooped into the television studios to say their bit. In no time the insults were flying as excuses and accusations, snarls and snarls, were traded with the usual abandon of French politics when the knives come out.

For many viewers, this might have seemed an entirely appropriate obituary for Chirac's presidential ambitions. As French voters had just demonstrated so vividly, his particular brand of campaigning — all hard-edged confrontation and blatant opportunism — left a sour taste in the mouth. A great many non-Socialists evidently agreed with Pierre Mauroy, a former prime minister under Francois Mitterrand, that "for Chirac, too much is never enough."

So where does he go from here, still only 55 years old, still strong as a horse? That raging thirst for power that Chirac has never quite managed to keep within bounds does not disappear overnight, even in the face of electoral disaster.

The same goes for the party that Chirac formed in his own neo-Gaullist image, the

Rassemblement pour la République. Where will that be heading when Mitterrand has digested his triumph and decides what to do about the present National Assembly?

Briefly, for trouble, leader and party alike. The first reactions from bastions of the traditional conservative centre as soon as Sunday's result came in merely underlined how seriously the French right has been splintered in the campaign: how precarious Chirac's position could become after his resignation as prime minister.

Take Raymond Barre, whose dire predictions about the damage that the RPR's *cohabitation* with Mitterrand would inflict on the mainstream right in France turned out to be deadly accurate. Having fought a first-round campaign which he has nothing to be ashamed of, Barre was characteristically generous about Chirac's "courageous and dynamic" effort.

Then the shooting started. How is it, Barre mused in his professional fashion, that the conservative victory in the 1986 parliamentary elections has so quickly turned to ashes? One thing was certain: "France cannot hope to meet the challenge of the future if she surrenders to a demagogic extremism... which can only cleftle and isolate her."

One barrel for Chirac, the other for Jean-Marie Le Pen? In retrospect, nothing damaged the right more than the Prime Minister's flagrant last-gasp efforts — under the direction of Charles Pasqua, the hardline Interior Minister, who ran Chirac's campaign — to win over the National Front vote. For the bulk of the moderate conservatives who had backed Barre first time — conceivably for the more squeamish wing of the RPR too — it turned out to be just too much to stomach.

True to form, Le Pen was quick to put the political boot in Chirac's defeat, he observed with undisguised relish, was a classic case of suicide. "He thought he could replace a solid programme with spectacular coups, but he failed, and today France finds herself once again in an impasse." Le Pen's solution: all the French who truly care for "the grandeur of our country" must rally round the National Front in the sacred cause of anti-Socialism.

As his campaign amply demonstrated, Jacques Chirac, the accomplished party boss, is no great political tactician. But he certainly knows enough to realize that he and the RPR are being set up for what one French observer calls "the big squeeze" between a nervous conservative centre, already listening intently to Mitterrand's silky overtures, and the new diehards gathered around the banner of Le Pen.

Just how Mitterrand, the tactician supreme, proposes to exploit this pleasing situation remains to be seen. Some of those close to him believe that having brushed aside Chirac's challenge, he is now intent on wiping the last remnants of

Gaullism from the political map of France before reshaping it to his own design.

With a sizeable majority of the nation apparently ready, even eager, for parliamentary elections, the highly personalized concept of "continuity" on which he campaigned so effectively may now be extended to the formation of the next National Assembly. Among the more cynical and realistic observers, there is already speculation that he would not welcome an equally decisive Socialist victory there.

But what a performance and what a performer! After 40 years in politics, enduring rebuffs and rejection with the same outer impassiveness as he greeted Sunday's victory, after becoming the latest of lame duck presidents a couple of years ago, yoked to an opposition majority in parliament, Mitterrand today is monarch of (almost) all he surveys. No wonder one of the French papers carried the banner headline: "Mitterrand II".

To an outsider, it sometimes seems as if the man *The Economist* apply called "the Merlin of France" has somehow conjured away an entire slice of the national memory. Can this be the same Mitterrand who has trimmed and turned so often in the past? Who opened the cage to let the National Front into the mainstream of French politics for the narrowest of party advantage?

The word from Mitterrand's inner circle is that with the unprecedented second term under his belt, the instinctive politician can be expected to give way to the elder statesman. The tone of his first message to the country was solemn enough, containing all the right references to solidarity, social cohesion and the coming together of the French people.

When the mood takes him, nobody weaves a better spell with such stirring themes than Francois Mitterrand. The contrast with Jacques Chirac, who has often said the same things yet never managed to seize the ordinary voter's imagination, does much to explain the startling result of Sunday's election. But as the habitually cautious Pierre Berégovoy — who managed Mitterrand's campaign so well — quietly pointed out amid the jubilation: "The hard work begins now."

Philip Jacobson on the prospects for Mitterrand's second term

## French right under squeeze

T.E. Utley

## Wooing the Scots, impartially

The local election results in Scotland, so the Tories tell us, have failed to give any convincing evidence of a revival of Tory fortunes there. You can say that again, as the vulgar put it. They have, on the face of it, given striking evidence of a steep decline of the party's fortunes north of the border.

In terms of votes cast, the Tories came second in last year's general election, a position to which the Scottish Nationalists succeeded in the local elections. The Tories are now in third place ahead only of the Alliance.

The likelihood, therefore, is that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues will be subjected to a renewed bombardment from Scottish Tories "in the field" to show at last some sensitivity to Scottish feeling. By this is meant to reintroduce into the Tory programme the idea of legislative devolution (a home rule Parliament for Scotland).

The constitutional objections are familiar enough not to require much elaboration here. Legislative devolution is a fundamentally unworkable system except in peculiar conditions such as prevail in Ulster in the days of Stormont, where you had a community absolutely resolved never to use its home rule powers to deviate an inch from the main lines of British government policy whatever the complexion of the British government might be.

Such would not be the demeanour of a Scottish parliament, particularly when the Tories were in power at Westminster. The result would be endless wrangling over money and constitutional lines of demarcation. This would first weaken the Union and then in all probability destroy it. As experience shows, however, this dire prognosis is no firm guarantee against the adoption of the remedy, provided, of course, it can be shown that the remedy will in future produce more Tory votes north of the border.

In reality, even this would be a

poor consolation, since one consequence of legislative devolution would almost certainly be a reduction of the number of Scottish members in the Commons, which would make the value of Tory votes in Scotland rather less than it now is.

An argument more appealing to the Tory apparatchiks, however, is that the mere act of announcing the re-conversion of the Tory party to the devolutionary ideas with which Mr Heath saddled them would in all probability not win a single Scottish vote for Mrs Thatcher. Probably the greatest single source of contempt for the Tories in Scotland is the widespread belief that their attitude to the place is entirely opportunistic. This would be confirmed by a second *volte-face*.

If you really want legislative devolution you go for one of the parties (ie, any one of all the others) which has consistently advocated it. The evidence seems now to be pretty convincing that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues are in fact not going to make the mistake of suddenly taking aboard legislative devolution or even making ambiguous gestures towards it. Her Secretary of State for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind (whose opposition to legislative devolution in the past has, to put it mildly, fallen far short of the fanatic), has made a series of powerful keynote speeches on the nature of Unionism, including a particularly outspoken one at Aberdeen on April 15.

What emerged from it clearly was his current conviction that legislative devolution for Scotland, unless it were part of a total federalist or semi-federalist constitutional reorganization of the whole kingdom, would be a total disaster for the Scots and everybody else. As he put it, perhaps a little inelegantly (but ministers will be ministers), "It is inevitable that unilateral devolution for Scotland alone



would lead to the provincialization of Scotland and its marginalization within the United Kingdom."

It must be supposed, therefore, that when Mrs Thatcher addresses the Scottish Conservative conference at Perth next Friday she will resoundingly reinforce Mr Rifkind's warnings. Will the cheers reach the rafters? Will thousands of Scottish Tories disgusted by the party's former ambivalence rally once more to the diehard ranks? Will it at last be said that the Tories have a clear policy for Scotland? The short answer is no.

For the awful truth is that, disastrous as legislative devolution would be, the arrangements now in force for governing Scotland are almost as bad. They

are described as "administrative devolution". This means that you have a Scottish Office (headquarters in Edinburgh) with the Scottish Secretary of State in the Cabinet and a number of ministers to assist him. A whole variety of important functions have been haphazardly delegated to this office.

Its ministers are conceived to be an almost alien element in Whitehall: they are there to fight Scotland's corner, to get more money for Scotland and to see that Scotland is spared as far as possible the rougher features of Thatcherism. This curious system is hardly calculated to win hearts and minds north of the border for Tories or Unionism as a positive philosophy. It also

inspires envy and resentment in other parts of the kingdom. It is a bad thing in particular that Scotland should be treated as a single unit when it comes to the distribution of largesse to industry, so that the criterion is "need" not "merit". Mrs Thatcher will have to do a lot more than confirm her rejection of legislative devolution. What will she have to do?

The answer seems to me to be admirably supplied by a pamphlet just published. It is written by two candidates for Scottish constituencies at the last general election and Alistair Cooke, a highly reputable historian who is also deputy director of the Conservative Research Department, though here writing in a private capacity.

It calls for "positive Unionism" and, although breaking the thought gently, it would like to see the functions of the Scottish Office actually diminished.

In the distribution of regional aid, for instance, Scotland should not necessarily be treated as a unit; specific regional needs should be identified and satisfied on the same basis as similar needs elsewhere in the kingdom. Only when such needs are peculiar to Scotland as a whole should Scotland be treated separately.

The historic elements in Scotland's cultural identity — its distinctive law, its educational system and its Presbyterian religion — should not merely be respected but positively revered and advertised throughout the rest of the kingdom. Above all, the Tories should realize that within every Scotsman, with his belief in thrift, personal endeavour, the mobile society and the virtues of moral inflexibility, there lurks a Thatcherite, and that the most hopeful course for the Tories is to appeal to these instincts rather than to corrupt them by offering Scotland a cosy refuge from the supposed rigours of the Prime Minister's economic policy.

Well, if Mrs Thatcher says all that at Perth, she will at any rate make an impact. I can see only one objection: if we are to have a policy of "positive Unionism" should it not apply to the whole kingdom and, if so, what about Ulster, where she is working so strenuously for a devolved government and where her party shows marked reluctance to allow Ulstermen even to join the Conservative Party? Perhaps she will make some gesture in this direction at Perth. I wonder. If not, however, I can promise her that somebody is going to ask her why not.

\*Making Unionism Positive by Alistair B Cooke, Liam Fox and Mark Mayall (Centre for Policy Studies, £2.95).

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

## Bidding goodbye

Everybody knows Rowntrees and Cadburys we have grown up with their products. The prospect that they might cease to be British-owned is therefore bound to arouse an unusual degree of public concern.

Yet the issues at stake, in what has inevitably become known as "bar wars", go much deeper than sentiment. It is no exaggeration to say that the outcome will mark a watershed in merger policy — in the Government's relationship with industry in the run-up to the Single European Market in 1992 and, consequently, in industry's capacity to prepare itself for the next decade.

Under the Fair Trading Act, the Secretary of State for Industry can refer qualifying mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for an assessment of whether they may be expected to operate against the public interest.

In 1984, Norman Tebbit, then Secretary of State, said that references to the commission should be "primarily" on competition grounds only. This new doctrine was confirmed by the recent government paper on mergers. There was no basis for thinking, it said, that "the public interest typically diverges from the interests of private sector decision-makers."

The limitations of this philosophy are now under the microscope. Last week the Government was humiliated by obliged to recognize the importance of BP, and to refer the increasing Kuwaiti stake in it to the commission. Now it must decide whether to refer Nestlé's bid for Rowntree and the General Cinema stake in Cadbury — where again British competition issues

do not arise — on the same broader basis of the public interest.

The case for doing so is overwhelming. Indeed, this was so even before "bar wars". Since the 1984 shift in policy the value of successful mergers has almost tripled.

As in the case of Rowntree and Cadbury, the fate of tens of thousands of employees often hangs in the balance. They have no say, helpless pawns on the chess board of the money-brokers. The companies may be of critical importance to the economic survival of the regions in which they are located, yet that too is discounted. The time and energy of senior management, which should be directed to securing the success of the enterprise, can be dissipated in warding off hostile bids or, increasingly, simply ensuring that no bid is made.

And who are these "private sector decision-makers" in whose judgement the Government places such trust? They are the representatives of large institutional investors who usually have no interest in the company other than its share price; in short, the antithesis of "the public interest."

It is not even as if there is substantial evidence that mergers operate in the interest of the individual company, let alone the wider economy. The same government paper actually concluded that post-merger performance was "disappointing" and that this finding was confirmed in its "robustness" by recent independence reports.

For all these reasons, the Government's current policy on mergers should change. But

there is now an additional dimension to consider. Gradually, the country is becoming conscious of 1992. From the fate of the three-point plug to the use of "foreigners" in our national football teams, we are beginning to realize how pervasive the impact of the Single European Market will be.

Should the Government adopt a passive, non-interventionist role, content to publicize the Market, but otherwise to let it take its course; or should it pursue an active, interventionist industrial policy to prepare Britain for the Market's challenge and its risks?

It is this issue which the bids for Rowntree and Cadbury exemplify. If successful, virtually an entire industrial sector will pass out of UK control. Allowing the bids to proceed without inquiry will be the clearest possible signal to Europe that we are not just open for business, but open for plunder by overseas predators whose very motives are to equip themselves adequately in advance of 1992 in the way that British companies like Rowntree have been trying to do — with precious little help from the Government. This is especially pertinent when, in the case of Nestlé or Sarchad, they are themselves protected from takeover by the law of Switzerland.

Lack of reciprocity provides at least minimum grounds for a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Government should act firmly and should act now. Failure to do so will represent the ultimate triumph of market dogma over industrial common sense.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield.

## SCIENCE REPORT

### Case proved

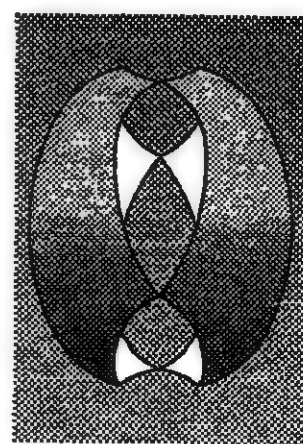
A synthetic hollow molecule shaped like a rugby football has been designed to swallow smaller molecules. The team of researchers responsible for synthesizing it suggests that similar molecules could be used to protect the molecules of individual drugs in metabolizable shells until they are eventually needed.

The new molecule — the work of a team at the University of California at San Diego and Los Angeles led by the Nobel Laureate, Donald J. Cram — has been named a carcerand. It is one of many carefully designed macro-molecules now being used to trap and manipulate smaller molecules, both in industrial and medical applications.

The Cram team won the Nobel Prize for chemistry last year, together with Jean-Marie Lehn of the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, and Charles J. Pedersen, formerly of the du Pont company, for its work on flexible molecules, called cryptands, which Cram likens to chemical potato sacks. These have chemical hooks which can latch on to the smaller molecules, much as many biological molecules are capable of doing.

The new carcerand molecule, described in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, is a barrel-shaped structure which is completely rigid and which cannot be melted or dissolved. The inside of the barrel is chemically smooth, with no binding sites for trapped molecules.

Instead, small molecules



Richard Leadwiler

rattle around freely, but are unable to escape — although there are two small orifices large enough to allow water molecules to pass through.

The design of complex molecules with such specialized structure requires forethought. Before embarking on their synthesis, chemists have to specify the precise structure they seek, often with the help of computers. But Cram prefers to use more traditional molecular models in which plastic balls represent atoms, which are joined rigidly by sticks representing chemical bonds.

His attachment to this approach is evident when he describes his carcerand molecule as being "as large as a melon capable of swallowing a grapefruit". The real molecule he describes, which consists of 172 atoms, mostly carbon and hydrogen, is perhaps only a

millionth of a millimetre across, with the hollow less than half that length.

Only when a satisfactory model had been made, in which the outer shell is complete and the connections not strained, is it possible to begin planning how the molecule may be made from simpler ones.

Cram and his co-workers start by attaching short reactive molecular chains to the rims of bowl-shaped molecules called carvacenes. In the final step, two carvacenes are zipped together, using the reactive chains. Any molecules present at the shell closure may be trapped between the shells.

Besides being used to deliver drugs safely to patients, for which digestible carcerands shells will be needed, carcerand molecules could also be used to enhance the resolution of X-ray scanners.

Atoms of mercury or other heavy metals which scatter X-rays strongly, but which are toxic, could be encased in a harmless carcerand and, thus shrouded, could flow freely through the bloodstream to perfuse organs, making them clearly visible in X-ray photographs without harm.

Cram and his colleagues are now working on ways to make carcerands soluble for such purposes.

But the extreme durability of carcerands makes Cram wonder whether they may not have a role as "ball bearings on a molecular scale".

ROLAND PEASE





1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## NEW EVENTS OF MAY

President Mitterrand's victory is in danger of being widely and deliberately misunderstood. Mr. Kinnock, as well as calling it a great victory for M. Mitterrand, which it was, described it also as a great victory for "the French socialists", which it was not.

The whole point of M. Mitterrand's strategy, during these last two years, was to detach himself from "the French socialists". That was how he secured the great victory. As we have argued before, it was always open to M. Mitterrand to spend this election campaigning, Truman-style, against the legislature for frustrating his party programme. Wisely he did not do so.

He said next to nothing in support of the policies on which he was elected in 1981, and confined himself to lofty generalities about national unity. The French were left to choose between his dignity of bearing and M. Chirac's hustling partisanship. Since they were choosing a head of state, it was no contest.

Yet the implausible version of M. Mitterrand's victory looks like becoming part of British left-wing orthodoxy. It is understandable that this version should suit a practising politician such as Mr. Kinnock, who has a dire need to identify himself with socialists who win national elections. But it looks as if it will also be pressed into service by Britain's anti-Thatcher *illuminati*.

On a BBC radio programme yesterday, Miss Margaret Drabble, bemoaning life under Mrs. Thatcher, saw the French result as a ground for cautious hope. "There's a wind blowing from Mitterrand's France," she advised, "and there's a wind blowing from Schleswig-Holstein."

There's a wind blowing from M. Le Pen too — a huge 22 per cent of whose first round vote went to M. Mitterrand on the second round. But Miss Drabble understandably ignored that, incompatible as it is with her thesis. In politics, winds are treacherous and wayward forces.

In Schleswig-Holstein they did indeed blow the opposition party in to power, but only after the Conservative leader had committed suicide — a propaganda advantage which Miss Drabble cannot routinely be expected to have on her side. In any case, Schleswig-Holstein, with its farmers and small towns, is an unpromising part of Europe on which to base any hopes for a coming socialization of the Continent.

So now is France. The Mitterrand tactics prove it. Had he any attachment to socialism, or believed it to have any electoral mileage left in it, he would not have treated it so casually. By not campaigning on a socialist platform in this election, he has frustrated the left just as ruthlessly as, at the Metz party congress in 1979, he frustrated the revisionist M. Rocard, and the social democratic wing of the party, when they were the ones who wanted to rid themselves of the left. M. Mitterrand needed the left then to secure Communist votes on the second round of the contest with M. Giscard d'Estaing in 1981. He would worry about

dismissing the Communists once he became President.

The presidency was won, and the Communists — by being manoeuvred into resigning when his Government jettisoned various socialist policies — were duly ditched. But by then, on account of that socialism, he was — according to the opinion polls — the most unpopular President in the history of the Fifth Republic. He set about surviving by turning himself into a President above party for 1988.

In doing so, he even conjured up an extra party to be above. The new strength given to M. Le Pen's National Front by M. Mitterrand's introduction of proportional representation for the 1986 Assembly elections is now well known. It must be made to stay that way. It must always be remembered as a classic of electoral cynicism.

M. Mitterrand has fragmented the French right just as surely as Mrs. Thatcher, last June, fragmented the British left. But there is a crucial difference in the way the two politicians did it. Mrs. Thatcher divided her opponents by pressing on with the policies on which she was elected, enduring years of public unpopularity from the electorate and private disloyalty from colleagues, then seeing the policies endorsed hugely at two general elections — and grudgingly accepted by the Bryan Goulds among her opponents the moment the latest of those elections was over.

M. Mitterrand divided his opponents by stealth and guile — a less heroic method. The outcome for both countries, however, has been partly the same in that socialism has been removed from the agenda. Not that this is much consolation for the respectable French right. But, then, its beaten candidate of last Sunday cut a sorry figure. M. Chirac only feebly embraced tax-cutting and privatization, and his fall at the feet of the hostage-takers just before Sunday's voting made M. Mitterrand's more routine deviousness look harmless.

A President Chirac would also have had Gaullist delusions and would have disrupted the European Community so as not to appear outdone by an Anglo-Saxon such as Mrs. Thatcher. M. Mitterrand may not be a socialist, but he is an old radical, an internationalist and a good European. He may not have deserved to win, but M. Chirac deserved to lose.

M. Mitterrand's victory was celebrated in Paris on Sunday night by the sort of young people who, 20 years ago to the week, would have been tangling with the SRS in those *evenements du Mai* which are at present the subject of lengthy reminiscence on British radio and television. Sunday was a rare recorded case of a youthful protest vote going to a head of state. The young threw champagne at one another rather than paving stones at the police — a sign of the durability of the Fifth Republican institutions which their predecessors tried to overthrow, which M. Mitterrand once denounced, and which have now granted him a personal triumph on which we offer congratulations.

## THE PARTIES OF MOSCOW

If anyone in Moscow had said, even three years ago, that he had set up a political party in opposition to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, two events would have been sure to follow. The author of the statement would have been arrested forthwith and probably consigned to a psychiatric hospital for his inadequate grasp of reality. The same person would, just as rapidly, have become a hero in the West: someone born and educated within the Soviet single-party system had publicly uttered the unthinkable — that the CPSU should be opposed.

It is a measure of the progress made during Mr. Gorbachev's time as party General Secretary and the perception of that progress in the West that neither has so far come to pass. This is not to say that the 100 or so people who gathered in Moscow at the weekend to form the Democratic Union will not be charged, or subjected to KGB harassment in subsequent weeks. Some were detained for passport offences as they left the meeting place. But the authorities may be learning that discouragement, backed up by intimidation, is less provocative and less damaging in the long-term than brute force.

Western observers have accustomed themselves to a Soviet Union where such things can happen. Indeed, the new group has been regarded in the West as just another of the many informal lobby groups that have sprung up in recent years. For this, Mr. Gorbachev and his advisers can thank their gamble that the more "normal" such developments become, the less attention they attract abroad. In this respect, the pay-off from the policy of *glasnost* has been excellent.

Yet the establishment of an opposition

party, however short its life proves to be, is extraordinary. For 100 people from different parts of the Soviet Union to gather in a Moscow flat with that single aim in view is extraordinary. The single legitimate party is the foundation on which the Soviet state rests. Too much proceeds from that idea for the challenge to be seen by the Party hierarchy as anything other than a threat to its authority.

True, the founders of the Democratic Union had a semi-official basis for believing that persecution would not automatically follow their action. Mr. Gorbachev himself has spoken of the disadvantages faced by the single party in a one-party state in regulating itself. A recent broadcast on Moscow radio described a multi-party system in the USSR as "theoretically possible". Mr. Gorbachev might also prefer the "opposition", of whatever hue, to be out in the open for his own political reasons. It is in his interest to know just how deep opposition to the present system runs and how daring its ideas.

These are special times in the Soviet Union. In a little over six weeks' time, the Soviet Communist Party is due to hold a special conference. Increasingly, it is seen as the gathering which will make or break Mr. Gorbachev's policies — greater democracy for the Soviet Union among them. For a while, almost any group in the Soviet Union, however few its adherents and however unlikely its platform, is claiming a right to speak and to be heard. That is a positive development in itself. But the success of that conference, both for Mr. Gorbachev and for the policy of *glasnost* must be judged by whether this spirit of debate persists afterwards, and if it does, for how long.

## Light and air

From Captain J. E. Austin  
Sir, Further to the letter (May 2) by the Director of the Civil Trust referring to aero-generators, back in the very early thirties, whilst on a school holiday to Cornwall, we visited Land's End. The weather was fine and clear with a south-westerly wind of 15 mph, according to our hand-held anemometer.

The master suggested the feasibility of a construction to generate electricity using wind power only and suggested that during the next term we should develop some ideas.

Using Meccano — the old nickel-plated sets — we made something resembling a Dutch windmill, mounted on a circular toothed rack, allowing the whole to move freely to face the wind.

Eventually, three 4.5V torch bulbs were lighting our darkened room, though had the project been

better thought out and designed on a scientific basis, results might have been better.  
Yours sincerely,  
J. E. AUSTIN,  
8 Potassels Road,  
Muirhead,  
Chryston,  
Glasgow, G69 9EL.  
May 2.

## Songs for all seasons

From Mr John Hart  
Sir, Recent rail journeys around England have shown me that the young of Britain, when travelling en masse, enjoys nothing more than drinking endless cans of beer and attempting to sing songs. I say attempting since it is painfully obvious to anyone in the same carriage that their repertoire extends only to tuneless, football chants of "Here we go, here we go" and the first lines of such generally inappropriate songs as "Auld Lang Syne".

Surely now, Sir, with the advent of Mr Baker's national curriculum is an opportunity to do away with this cacophony. As a starting point the secretary of state could well take the example of France. There, schoolchildren of all ages possess a large number of charming songs, with regional variations, which serve them well on joyful occasions as well as when they are stuck in seamen's strikes at Channel ports. Indeed, it seems that schools even teach them to sing something which can hardly be the case in our educational establishments.

To encourage Mr Baker in this pleasant task perhaps your readers would care to suggest some song titles which he might then find a slot for in amongst the computer studies and life-skill programmes.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HART,  
7A River Bank,  
Hampton Court, Surrey.  
April 26.

## Age as a bar to the bench

From Sir Jeffrey Petersen  
Sir, My own effort to volunteer for the local bench met virtually the same reception as that of Mr O'Leary (May 5) except that no reply to it, either courteous or dismissive, was received.

The "methuselahphobia" apparently rampant in the Lord Chancellor's Department is the more puzzling when one contemplates the tenacity in office of the Lord Chancellor's predecessor. Or is it? Yours faithfully,  
JEFFREY PETERSEN,  
Crofts Wood, Petham, Kent.  
May 5.

From Mrs M. W. Grayson, JP  
Sir, Mr Terence O'Leary makes a good point regarding the age beyond which a person will not be appointed a JP. At present there is, on some benches, a marked imbalance between the sexes, the women JPs considerably outnumbering their male colleagues. This is partly due, I believe, to employers' reluctance to allow employees the requisite amount of time off to train and sit as a JP without that adversely affecting their career prospects.

Might not the imbalance between the sexes on benches be lessened by appointing experienced and necessarily leisured retired men even if they are in their late fifties or beyond? If it is argued that they would not be able to serve on the bench for a sufficiently long period because of the present compulsory retirement age for a JP of 70, why not extend the retirement age, in line with professional judges, who retire at 75, or 72 in the case of circuit judges?

I meet fit, active and greatly experienced JPs who are about to leave, respectfully, to retire from the bench and crown court service on reaching 70.  
WENDY GRAYSON,  
As from: 1 Brick Court,  
Temple, EC4.  
May 5.

From the Head Master of St Peter's School, York  
Sir, My wife was a magistrate in Bristol for three years prior to our coming to York in 1985. She was too junior by two years for an automatic transfer to the York bench, and she regrets her failure yet to be appointed.

She has been told that the Lord Chancellor's Department has a quota for those "in education". As someone who has never been a teacher, she rightly considers that it is her husband who is "in education" and not her.  
Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN PITTMAN, Head Master,  
St Peter's School, York.  
May 5.

From Mr Nigel Louth  
Sir, It seems anomalous that the Lord Chancellor's Department consider anyone past the age of 60 to be too old to be appointed as a magistrate, whilst at the same time appointing a 62-year-old to head the Legal Aid Board (report, May 5).  
Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL LOUTH,  
115 Dawlish Road, E10.  
May 5.

## Taxing widow's mite

From Mrs Elizabeth S. Dougal  
Sir, I am a widow of 89 and worked to age 75. My weekly income is 85p over income support level, which results in £1.25 being deducted from housing benefit, an effective tax rate of 147 per cent.

Surely this anomaly and gross injustice, which will not be alleviated by the concessions announced last week (reports, April 28, 29), was never intended? It could be simply avoided by ignoring the first £1 of extra income.  
Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH S. DOUGAL,  
1 The Crescent,  
Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
May 1.

## Moulders of form

From Mr R. W. Ramage  
Sir, It surprises me that readers of your paper should worry about male fashion in clothing (letter, May 3). I was brought up to and still do believe that, whereas ladies may choose to dress fashionably, all that is required of a gentleman is that he dresses correctly.

He does so by adhering instinctively to British Absolute Standards, which, although they may be admitted to evolve over decades, owe nothing to fashion. I find that, in my unfashionable circles, BAS survives well, notwithstanding a minor setback some years ago, when van Heusen discontinued the manufacture of style 11 collars.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. W. RAMAGE,  
Melrose, 72 Boundary Lane,  
Congleton, Cheshire.  
May 3.

## Merrier then?

From Dr Magnus Pyke  
Sir, Mr John West (May 6) drew our attention to Pepsy's comment on the dancing milkmaids on May Day, 1665. But he did not mention that on April 30, 1665, Pepsy's entry concluded:  
Great fears of the Sickness here in the City, it being said that two or three houses are already shut up. God preserve us all.

Merrier then?  
Yours faithfully,  
MAGNUS PYKE,  
3 St Peter's Villas, W6.  
May 6.

## A coroner's joy in treasure trove

From HM Coroner for North Buckinghamshire  
Sir, Patrick O'Hanlon writes on May 3 ("All that glitters is not treasure trove") that "tales of hidden treasure have a perennial thrill as the country's estimated 250,000 metal-detector users know". That thrill certainly extends to me as one of her Majesty's coroners for Buckinghamshire, for, over a three-week period in September, 1987, three young men using metal detectors found 627 Roman silver denarii. This was on the site of a previous hoard, declared treasure trove by a jury in 1967, and both finds must be added together to gauge their importance. The coins reported to me were mostly in exceptional condition, were virtually pure silver, and spanned the rule of Mark Antony, 32 BC, to Commodus, AD 192. They were found in a field near the Watling Street between Bleckley and Little Brickhill. The majority of the pot in which they were found was tendered in evidence to the jury.

Coroners have been county law officers since early medieval times, when their inquiries were an important source of revenue to the King's Exchequer. They enquired into those who had been outlawed,

those who had sought sanctuary of a church or cathedral to escape punishment, into finds of concealed gold and silver, and into those persons who had died a sudden and unnatural death. Each enquiry exacted an amercement, or fine and sale of the object causing death.

I do not feel treasure trove law is "in a mess" as stated in your article. It needs expanding to include all objects of antiquity and archaeological interest, which must be reported. This is a matter of public interest; the office of coroner has been concerned with enquiries into such matters for some 800 years and is well equipped for an expanded enquiry.

In conclusion, Sir, I have only the highest praise for those metal-detector users who have appeared in my courts, for, without their endeavours, I doubt there would have been an inquest. And what a joyful contrast to one's normal enquiry!

Yours truly,  
RODNEY CORNER,  
HM Coroner for North Buckinghamshire,  
15 Market Square,  
Winslow, Buckingham.  
May 5.

## Press Council choice

From the Chairman and the Director of the Press Council  
Sir, It is odd that a complaint about "secrecy" surrounding the selection of a new chairman of the Press Council (report, May 9) is made in direct quotation marks by "a senior industry source" who evidently prefers not to be named. His or her comments are as ill-informed as they are ironic.

By the Press Council's constitution since 1963 its independent chairman must be a person otherwise unconnected with the press. Since 1976, to maintain the confidentiality which is necessary when approaching distinguished men and women who might become chairman but are unlikely to relish becoming known as failed would-be chairmen or as, "only the fourth choice as chairman", the Press Council has had an agreed procedure.

This, introduced with the support of all its constituent bodies who represent the industry and fund the council, is to instruct a special committee confidentially to find and recommend a new chairman.

So far from having no voice in the search and selection, the constituent bodies — including the two named in your report — appoint the members to conduct it and suggest names for consideration.

## Voting at Lambeth

From the Bishop of Chichester  
Sir, Your leading article of April 30, headed "To Canterbury", raises an important question about the Lambeth Conference and its authority. The Anglican Communion consists of 28 independent self-governing provinces and six extra-provincial dioceses. Hitherto, at Lambeth conferences, voting has been by bishops as a whole and the resolutions passed have been majority decisions having no more than the authority that various provinces chose, individually, to attach to them.

If, as you appear to suggest, authority is now to be attached in such wise that those who disagree with resolutions must either conform or leave then the question arises whether this form of voting is proper.

The number of bishops in the various provinces differs greatly and is not directly related to the number of church members. The

eration. The committee consists of a press member or a consultative member (officials of the bodies) of the council chosen by each organisation; the vice-chairman, who represent their parent organisations; the current chairman; and one public member of the council invited by the chairman.

The committee conducting the search this time is Sir Zelman Cowen, the chairman; Mr T. P. Watson and Mr David Ensor, joint vice-chairmen, both nominees of the Newspaper Society on the Press Council; Mr Louis Kirby, appointed to the committee by the Newspaper Publishers Association; Mr F. P. M. Johnston, appointed by the Scottish Newspaper Proprietors' Association, who is also senior vice-president of the Newspaper Society; Mr Robert Smith, appointed by the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society; Mr G. G. Collard, appointed by the Guild of British Newspaper Editors; Mr Cyril Bainbridge, appointed by the Institute of Journalists; Mr M. J. Finley, executive director of the Periodical Publishers Association; and Mrs Pamela Ormerod, a public member.

Yours etc,  
ZELMAN COWEN, Chairman,  
KENNETH MORGAN, Director,  
The Press Council,  
1 Salisbury Square, EC4.  
May 9.

latest figures available to me show that there will be a total membership of the conference of 563. That includes lay and clerical members of the Anglican Consultative Council and bishops of other churches in communion with the Anglican Communion.

The number of Anglican bishops will be 496. Of those 149 come from one province, the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. There will be 63 bishops from the Church of England, 34 from Canada, and 30 from Australia, which means that the bishops of four provinces will be able to outvote all the bishops of the other 24, if the previous practice is followed.

That must call into question whether decisions made by such a method can have the authority that your leading article suggests.  
Yours faithfully,  
JERIC CICESTR,  
The Palace,  
Chichester, West Sussex.  
April 30.

## Lebanese complaint

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon  
Sir, I am writing in reply to your editorial, "In and out of Lebanon" (May 4). A clarification of Lebanon's position may help to correct any misunderstanding among your readers.

Since last Monday, the Israeli army and its backed militia, the so-called "South Lebanon Army", under the pretext of a search for guerrillas, carried out a ruthless campaign of intimidation, terror and harassment against numerous villages in the south of Lebanon. Three mechanised battalions with air support not only breached the sovereignty of an independent State (Israel has been breaching the sovereignty of Lebanon without interruption since 1978) but also showed disregard for the United Nations force responsible for the area.

The repeated aggression of the Israeli army and its show of strength have exacerbated the situation and led to a substantial increase of violent incidents along the border. Acts of resistance will continue and increase in number and scope as long as the Israeli army occupies parts of Lebanon.

The Lebanese Government has lodged numerous complaints with the Security Council following similar attacks, demanding the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and the deployment of UN (United Nations) International Forces in Lebanon) along the international recognised borders to ensure security.

There is enough turmoil in the region without its gratuitous exacerbation brought about by this indiscriminate action against innocent people. The pacification of the border area, whose people have been suffering for too long, might still be possible were Israel

to adhere to UN resolutions and were she to withdraw totally from the so-called "security zone" which is imposed on the sovereign territory of an independent State, and is considered to be ineffective by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as stated by a spokesman commenting on the attack.

Furthermore, to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East, Israel has to withdraw also from all other Arab occupied territories.  
Yours sincerely,  
AHMED EL-HAJJ,  
Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon,  
21 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.  
May 5.

## Douché techniek

From Mr S. J. Priestley  
Sir, James Page-Roberts (May 5) applauds generous motorists who spray his car windscreen from in front. But will he also spare a thought for us poor motor cyclists who, on the finest of sunny days, are regularly doused by motorists in their vain attempt to squirt the remains of impacted insects, brats from the surface of their windcreens.  
Yours faithfully,  
STEVE PRIESTLEY,  
High Mead, Arford Common,  
Headley, Hampshire.  
May 5.

From Mr T. R. Simmons  
Sir, Mr Page-Roberts is more appreciative than was the driver of the car adjacent to mine at a red traffic light some years ago. When I sought to wash my windscreen, the left side jet proved to be misaligned and sped its contents straight through his open window into his right eye.

Fortunately the lights turned green — and I had the faster car.  
Yours faithfully,  
T. R. SIMMONS,  
38 Cambridge Road, SW11.

## More light for Finance Bill

From Sir Anthony Jacobs  
Sir, You rightly draw attention (report, May 6) to the Tax Law Consultative Bodies' report, which says that MPs should be able to take evidence from outside experts before they vote on the Finance Bill. It is clear that the consequences of major changes in tax legislation, such as the abolition of 100 per cent capital allowances in 1984 and the dramatic changes in capital gains tax in this Budget, give rise to grave problems and indeed may be the cause of some injustice which neither the Government nor the Inland Revenue actually intend.

I myself was successful in 1984 in persuading the Government and the Inland Revenue to amend their Finance Bill, resulting in an annual reduction in corporation tax for UK companies of £30 million. The Revenue in particular were very helpful, but the difficulty arises for those wanting to bring serious anomalies to the attention of the Revenue and the Government as to how one can obtain access to the necessary experts.

It would be most helpful if the Government would consider allowing the Inland Revenue to appoint a small committee of their own experts to be available for consultation immediately following the Budget until the completion of the Finance Bill. This would certainly be welcomed by accountants and tax lawyers, who often recognise very quickly serious unintended anomalies situations which could easily be corrected before the Finance Bill is passed, but which can cause untold problems if left for correction until the following year.  
Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY JACOBS,  
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1.  
May 6.

## ON THIS DAY

MAY 10 1910

Edward VII, who had died aged 68, suffered from "smoker's throat". Sir Philip Magnus, in his biography, mentions the king's fear of cancer, from which his sister, the Empress Frederick, and brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, had died. The king had great faith in the use of radium and persuaded Sir Ernest Cassel, his financial adviser, and Lord Lough to found a radium institute in London.

## THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

The British Medical Journal, in an article in the current issue on the death of the King, says:

From a medical point of view the case was perfectly simple, and the stopping of the machinery of life was due to causes about which there is nothing doubtful or mysterious. We think it necessary to point this out, since the appearance on the bulletins of the name of a leading laryngologist gave rise to a revival of unfounded rumours which were current even before the deceased monarch came to the Throne. Professor St. Clair Thomson had, however, attended him on several occasions during the last 18 months; before that time Sir Felix Semon had often been called on to advise the King about his throat; it may be added that more than 20 years ago he had been seen by the late Sir Morrell Mackenzie.

For years the King had suffered from emphysema and a tendency to more or less acute bronchitis, with the usual symptoms of distressing and ineffective cough and difficulty of breathing. There was crepitation at the base of both lungs, indicating a chronic impediment to the free passage of air in the smaller bronchial tubes. He was subject to attacks of laryngitis, producing a slight hoarseness of the vocal chords; but, except for some inflammatory thickening at the hinder part of the pharynx and chronic catarrh of the throat, there was, as we are in a position to state, no trace of disease in the upper air passages.

The King, in short, had what is known as a smoker's throat, and this and the congestion and the thickening due to this cause, combined with the loss of elasticity in the lungs, made it increasingly difficult for him to clear his chest. The strain thrown upon the heart by the obstruction to the passage of blood through the lungs caused by the collection of secretion in the bronchial tubes had its natural sequel in dilatation of the right ventricle, and the actual cause of death was heart failure due to the increasing difficulty in the pulmonary circulation. It was, in short, a case of a type seen every day in thousands of elderly persons.

The cause of death in such cases is purely mechanical, the action of the overladen heart being gradually stopped by increasing resistance in the lungs. Could the King have been induced to spare himself more he would probably have lived many years longer. His Majesty had indeed suffered from phlebotomy of varying degree for a long time, but this did not, as far as can be judged, tend to the shortening of his life. Another condition which must have caused considerable discomfort at times was a certain weakness in the abdominal wall at the site of the operation for appendicitis which was performed in 1902.











## THE ARTS

Paul Griffiths reports from Milan on the stage premiere of Stockhausen's new opera

## Monday's bitty child

## OPERA

Montag  
La Scala, Milan

At this stage, with three of the seven operas completed, Stockhausen's work of festivities is beginning to make sense, up to a point. The appearance first of *Donnerstag*, the "day of learning", may have misled, since learning is progressive and implies a work with some narrative continuity. In the unavoidable comparison, *Samsag* then seemed bewilderingly heterogeneous, being a sequence of four utterly dissimilar episodes, each of them essentially static and repetitive. But now *Montag* is even more a succession of bits and pieces: the three acts simply assemble 20 items which belong together only in the way that the prayers and readings of a liturgy belong together. The absence of drive, of drama, is inevitable; the whole nature of the project is ceremonial.

Since *Montag* is the day of Eva, the Venus-Mother of Stockhausen's pantheon, it is pre-eminently the day of birth, though the emphasis is on the prenatal, the potential, the unformed. The music seems to exist in a state of gestation, enveloped in the same har-

mony for long periods, embedded in the continuous sounds of synthesizers (a trio of these, plus a bellhop percussionist, has the function of orchestra throughout). The theatre becomes a womb, bathing the audience in the amniotic fluid of diffuse electronic tones; and allowing the outer world to penetrate only as sound: faraway voices, motors, national anthems and even a snatch of Hitler, promptly flushed down the loo, all make this Stockhausen's biggest essay in *musique concrète* since *Hymnen*.

In other respects the connections are with his celebrations of sexuality and the eternal feminine in *Stimmung* and *Momente*, works of similar ecstatic prolongation (the total duration of the three acts of *Montag* is almost three and a half hours, and some of the scenes seem to drift on endlessly). As in those earlier works, too, the closeness of mother and lover in Stockhausen's erotica is marked: sex is joined to birth not by causality but because the male in sexual activity becomes infantile. Hence the prominence of children (the exceptionally secure and confident Radio Budapest Children's Choir) in all three acts, and hence too the regression to nursery rhymes, to a powerful focussing on the breast, and to a giggling babble of punning, compound words and nonsense in most of the text. The very cover of the programme book reproduces the

"Montag-Lied" dedicated to Suzanne Stephens, who is in many ways the adored instigator of *Montag*.

Stephens, as the basset-hornist persona of Eva (though called "Coeur de Basses"), dominates the last two acts of the work, but in the first, "Eva's First Birth", the goddess is present as a trio of sopranos, singing from the shoulder of an eight-metre-high female idol that is the spectacular main feature of Chris Dyer's set. Supporting herself in semi-recumbent readiness, the idol gives birth to seven animals and seven dwarves: implicitly to the days of the week and to fairy stories. The ensuing celebrations include a wonderfully silly close-harmony trio for tenors arriving as sailors, and an inordinately long ballet for baby buggies, after which Lucifer bursts in for a big anger aria in nonsense syllables progressing through the alphabet. Nicholas Isherwood was splendid here.

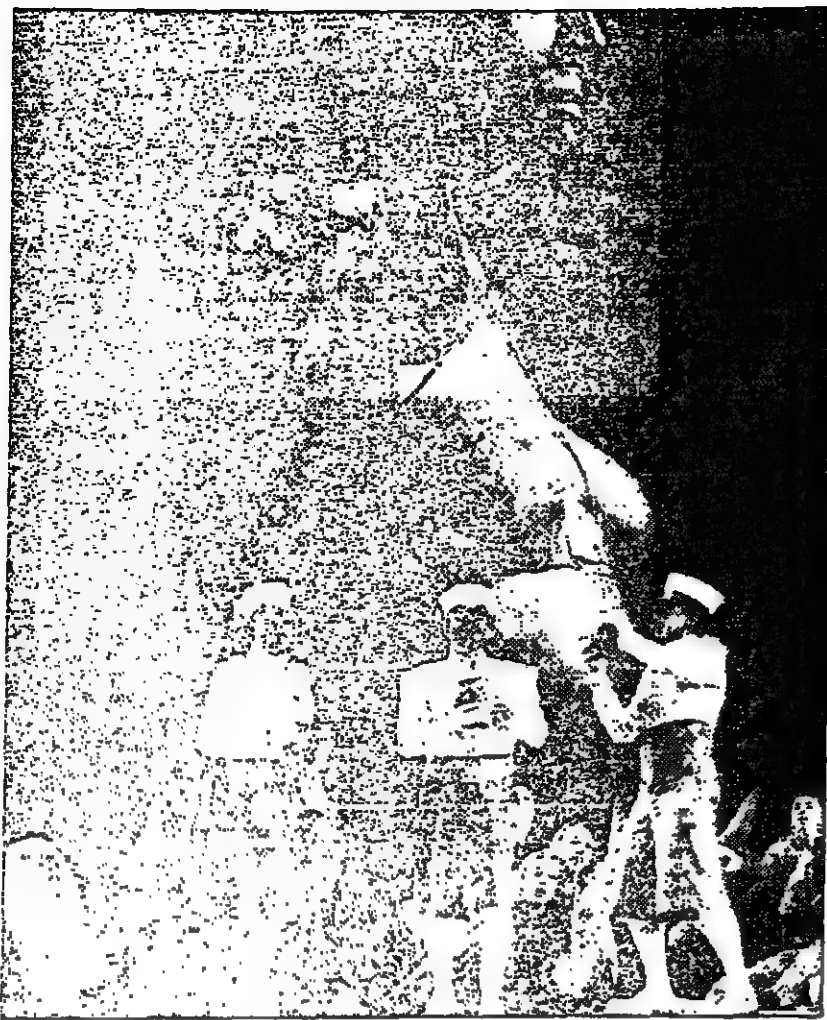
In the second act, "Eva's Second Birth", the focus shifts to instrumental soloists, reminding us that the use of instrumentalists as mime artists must be Stockhausen's most fruitful operatic innovation. Pierre-Laurent Aimard comes to impregnate the idol with Piano Piece XIV, played on a comically extended grand thrust between her legs. Then the days are born again, explicitly this time, as naked children to be taught their songs by Coeur de Basses, who

afterwards calls forth replicas of herself from the breasts and vagina of the idol. The act thus moves from the clear innocence of singing girls in candle-lit procession (albeit dressed with rampant symbolism as arm lilies) to the dark, damp sensuality Stockhausen finds in the bassethorn.

The third act, "Eva's Magic", makes a reverse transition, beginning with Coeur de Basses playing to an adult chorus of admirers, and ending with a flautist (Kathinka Pasveer) and the Hungarian children enacting the Pied Piper story.

With so much input from the composer and his long-standing collaborators, Michael Bogdanov's contribution as producer is facilitatory rather than creative, and similarly Mark Thompson in his costume designs has been influenced by Stockhausen's tastes for breast ornament, can-de-Nil lures and split skirts (the sailors, though, dressed as clowns in fruit-print Bermuda shorts, are an independent triumph). Essentially this is Stockhausen's show, with hardly anybody from the Scala allowed anywhere near it. It is, of course, an act of gigantic egomania, but it is also interminably delightful and, not least, pretty alarming in being a ramshackle enterprise that we all accept, perhaps have to accept, as a masterpiece.

Further performances throughout the week until Friday.



Close-harmony naval trio: Stockhausen's sailors in Bermuda shorts

## Flimsy fear and loathing

Until recently, homophobia could only mean fear of one's own kind: thus, a homophobic heterosexual loathed his or her fellow heterosexuals. Today, illustrating the capacity of usage to pervert sense, the term means fear and loathing of "Christopher's kind".

*Open Space* (BBC2) illustrated the condition with some predictable examples: the "spanking judge", for instance, who resigned his readership after exposure in the tabloids; the "our" lesbian who enlisted in the Wrens specifically

## TELEVISION

to meet like-minded adults, without realizing that the armed forces are the only sphere where such activity has ever been illegal. The most intelligent comment was Ian McKellen's plea for respectable homosexuals to help erode prejudice by declaring themselves publicly — a move which would, however, posit a different society.

As one has come to expect from access-television, the historical perspective was on the flimsy side. In this country at least, the "homophobic" backlash started years before AIDS had been heard of, for the obvious reason that some "straights" had had it up to here with the bickering aggression of homosexual propaganda.

The programme tread carefully, but its only true ray of light came with the bizarre and curiously touching story of a deputation of vocal dungarees who visited South Wales to donate money to the striking miners. The sons of the valleys reciprocated by marching in the subsequent Gay Pride Week celebrations. There must be a musical in this somewhere.

*Horizon* followed on the same channel with its usual combination of cosy wraparound and massive plug for progress, leaving in its wake the usual litter of unanswered questions. Ostensibly dealing with the uses of forensic technology in solving serial murders, it gave policemen of many forces the opportunity to play with expensive toys and blather about "parameters" and "prioritizing".

A gentleman from the FBI held the feature film *The Collector* responsible for copy cat abductions, and a psychologist supplied the priceless information that motiveless crimes of violence are in fact committed by inadequate seeking respect. It was difficult to see what much of this had to do with science.

Martin Cropper

## Reflections of youth

## GALLERIES

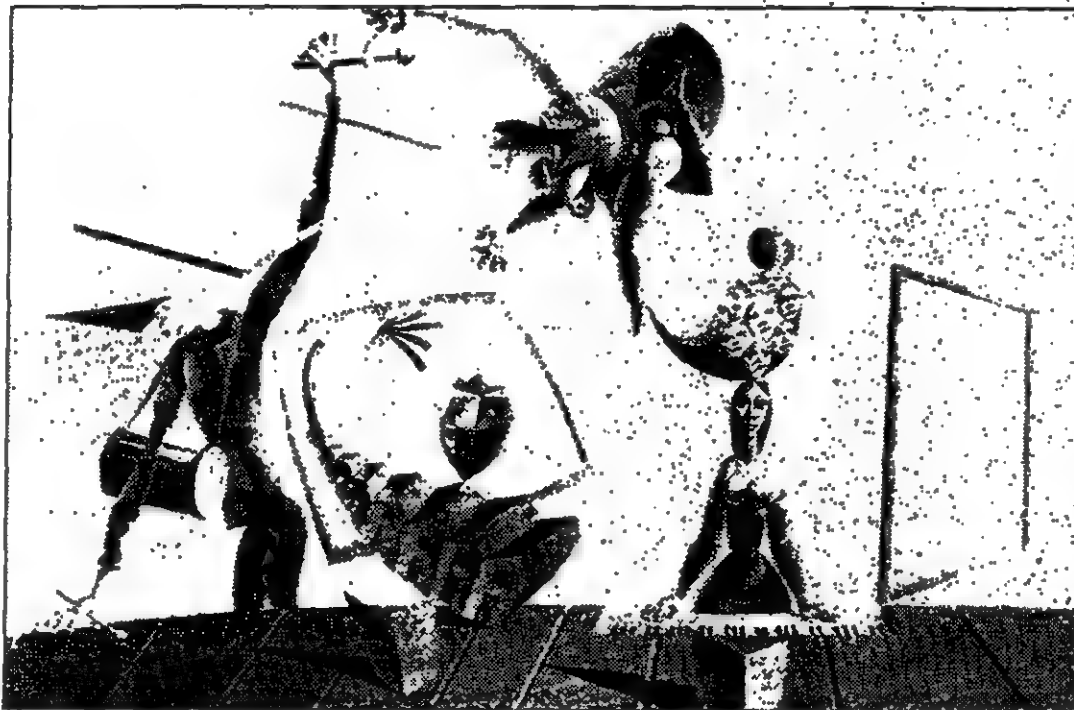
Germinations 4  
Royal College of ArtThe Surrealist Spirit  
in Britain  
Whitford and HughesGerald Wilde  
October Gallery

Hope for too much. Expect too little. Look for the wrong things. Fail to see the right things. Take it all with a gigantic punch of salt. Which ever way you approach a student exhibition, you are bound to be wrong. And especially with a show like *Germinations 4*, which is at the Royal College of Art until May 25, having already been seen in Marseilles and Breda, and going on to Bonn.

There are various reasons why this show is particularly difficult to grip, even by the standards normal in student shows. For one thing, it is not exactly a student show. It is described as a Biennale of Colleges of Art — the fourth in its present form, which is about to be radically overhauled for number five. Up to now it has covered just four countries: Britain, France, Holland and West Germany, but for 1990 it is going to be extended to cover as many as possible of the 12 member countries of the EEC, plus Switzerland. Also, it is not, as one might imagine, a show of actual students, but rather of work by young artists who have been students fairly recently.

Obviously one cannot know, even in one's own country, how fairly representative it is of current student work, or even young painting. However, each of the national selections seems to be remarkably coherent and consistent within itself.

In Britain, young painters seem to be going in very generally for a sort of Magic Realism: clearly representational, but yet depicting a private mythology rather than something recognizable as the real world all about us. In Germany things appear to be going rather the same way: it is more tempting here to isolate influences or parallels from the recent history of art, since nearly all of these young painters belong to the broadly Expressionist stream, and more immediately the spectres of Kiefer and Lüpertz loom large. The



Earlier surrealist spirit: Colin Middleton's "The Toy-Box" easily stands the test of time

Dutch artists are the most dated, clinging largely to Seventies ideals of the minimal and the conceptual. The French are the least predictable, but mostly on the side of avant-garde art as it would be understood in the glamorous spaces of the Saatchi collection.

Taking the show overall, one does get another strong impression: all of these youngsters are very much in the mirror of other art. The show as a whole is almost like an anthology of 20th-century styles. Of course, taking the artists one by one, this is not so noticeable. One may be suddenly struck by the oddity of a 27-year-old painter, the German Eckhard Brock, painting now much as Pollock did in the fifties. One may be surprised, not unpleasantly, to find that, in front of a canvas by Peter McLaren, names like Minton and Vaughan are those which spring to mind. And with most of the Brits, even though there is no such instant recognition factor, one cannot help seeing a consistency, probably unconscious, with Stanley Spencer or the surrealist phases of, say, Richard Eversich or John Armstrong.

I hesitate to sound chauvinistic, but on the whole I think the British artists here come off best, both individually and collectively. There is a real sense of continuity, felt rather than contrived, with the most characteristic strains of British art this century. For the key to so much of recent British art

history seems to be the strength of the symbolist tradition. British artists, from at least the pre-Raphaelites on, are generally most at home telling stories in paint, or at least calling on great national reserves of magic and myth. An artist like David Hockney, for instance, with his mysterious fantasy scenes, or David Duke, with his enormous images of alternative botany, or Paul Crook, with his scenes from unwritten dramas (probably by Pinter), or Dominik Lasok, with his curiously turned historical and mythological subjects, or Philip Kett, with his faintly Nash-like images from the life of the rock-pool... the consistency is not so much of subject-matter or technique, but of general approach to the whole question of subject in painting. And for my money these artists, all noticeably under 30, are finding some convincing answers.

If we see them as being in a clearly British historical tradition, we can go the other way and check out some earlier examples in *The Surrealist Spirit in Britain* (until June 10). This show has most of the familiar names, and indeed some pictures in themselves very familiar from one or more of the British Surrealist shows with which the British anniversary of the London International Surrealist Exhibition was celebrated a couple of years ago. Of course, names like Grace Pailthorpe or Reuben Mednikoff

or Edith Rimmington have been familiar only since then, and the timely stepping-up of historical studies in this field. Even the better-known figures, like John Armstrong or John Tunnard, had been going through rather shadowy phases in their reputation. But here just look at paintings like Armstrong's "Analysis of Easter" or "Surreal Landscape", or Colin Middleton's "The Toy-Box", and ask yourself whether, if you had come round a corner and seen it at the RCA, you would have thought it at all out of place among the artists in their twenties.

Gerald Wilde, another artist touched by surrealism and the symbolist strain, is now (until May 21) being commemorated by a large memorial show at the October Gallery. It presents virtually every aspect of this unruly genius's work and is accompanied by a slim but useful paperback book about him.

If you think the description of him as a genius is a bit strong, go and look at the show. Some of the work is casual or careless, but enough of it, right through from the meticulous realism of the Twenties to the symbolic abstractions of his last years, is sufficiently powerful to warrant superlatives. Especially in the expressionistic paintings of the immediately post-war years, we clearly have a tiger by the tail: you might hate his work, but you could hardly stay unaffected by it.

John Russell Taylor

## Relatively shocking

## BRIGHTON FESTIVAL

A Family Affair  
Lancing College

It is in John Lambert's nature to experiment. That goes as much for subject matter as musical language in his new "black vaudeville" of a chamber opera, scripted by himself and Murray Melvin and called *A Family Affair*, which was given its premiere by the group Vocem as part of the Brighton Festival. For the piece's central subject is the shocking one of incest, though taken as only one instance of people's compulsion to manipulate each other.

There are just three characters: Sam, a woman draughtsman, Chris, a PhD candidate in anthropology, and Clay, a mysterious, Prospero-like figure. Throughout the piece they reveal, in "Lifemanship Games", more of themselves. What seems at first to be a tale of a couple whose personal and professional problems are fouling up their relationship is shown to be one of a relationship, between brother and sister, born of insecurity and fear.

Clay's purpose, far from being to counsel, is to stop Sam, who has worked at Portland Down, spoiling

some sensitive secrets about atomic leaks. He is as manipulative as her father was. But the characters do not change; only what we know about them does, as often in Lambert's music veils are drawn aside to reveal deeper truths.

The psychology of this intense but moving scenario is well delineated by Richard Bullwinkle's versatile set of two beds and four mobile folding screens, barriers of the mind as well as physical presences. And Michael Rennison's production has its bold strokes. In a long dream sequence Chris, who has returned to his sister after the demise of a deeply involved gay affair, is portrayed in imaginatively staged Jungian

scenes of drowning and flying, evocatively lit by Brod Mason, while Sam's recurring nightmare of her father's sexual attentions, chillingly revived by means of taped exchanges, is equally effectively presented.

The music, scored for a mixture of taped and live electronics and a group of percussion, flute and clarinet, is itself an evocative dreamscape punctuated by set numbers — songs, really — whose rhythmic definition, bringing to mind the songs of Weill, sets them aside from the timeless action. The acting (and there is much speaking) is well done, the singing marginally less so, though Andrew Gallagher, as Clay, is commanding in both departments. Philip Curtis is a suitably vulnerable Chris, but he experiences problems singing in his higher register, while Elise Lorraine makes an explosive, childish Sam, given to escape by means of the gin bottle, by screaming, and, ultimately, by overdosing.

S.P.

## Opening doors

## CONCERTS

LS Voices/Edwards  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

A single piece, Heinz Holliger's *Scardanelli Zyklus*, occupied the entire last day of the London Sinfonietta's latest "Response" weekend, and a good thing that it did. Not only did the work's three parts, of 23 movements composed from four other pieces, benefit from being widely spread, but the explanations provided by two talks and a film gave a useful opportunity for orientation.

Only Günter Coenen's readings of the poems Holliger set seemed unnecessary. They were blandly done and we had, in any case, plenty of interval time in which to absorb the words, those on the seasons that the mentally distressed Hölderlin wrote under the pen-name of Scardanelli — and dated randomly — into his life. The musical performances, under Terry Edwards's direction, were, however, marvellous.

Holliger's music, as might be expected, resourcefully explores performance technique. Instances abound of his fertile aural imagination. He asks his solo flautist, here the remarkable Aurèle Nicolet, to sing and growl and to employ circular breathing techniques. For example, while the Sinfonietta Voices were required to sing in eighth-notes, while breathing in, or in "sub-harmonies", a method which resulted in a sound rather like a choir of muted Daleks.

Holliger, like Hölderlin, concentrates on the beauty of the moment, on a stagnant kind of elegance varied only from movement to movement. But even if this makes the work, finished in 1985, rather less than a true *opus magnum*, the composer had at least opened several doors to new sonic worlds. His colleagues must admire and be grateful.

Stephen Pettitt

## LONDON DEBUTS

Jacqueline Cole certainly did not set out to woo her audience in a debut piano recital built entirely on the massive blocks of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and the fourth book of Messiaen's *Catalogue d'oiseaux* at the Wigmore Hall. Her playing revealed something of an earnest, single-minded sense of purpose. Her Bach was full-toned, big-boned, slowly and surely expansive in its pacing of the mighty variations. I enjoyed her thoughtful, totally unmannered approach to phrasing and part-writing.

Slow variations revealed her understanding and instinctive projection of their sense of organic growth; all the interpretation needs now is a sharper awareness of changing textures and the colour of the rhythmic and ornamental artifice within the inner voices of the work.

The Greek cellist Sonjita Devaris had to battle with both a somewhat intransigent instrument and a sometimes cavalier accompanist in Louis Demetrius Alvanis at the Purcell Room. Her Vivaldi A-minor Sonata and Mendelssohn Concert Variations were nicely scaled, with a characteristically light and agile line, but interpretatively understated.

This tendency to under-project became more serious in Beethoven (A major Op 69) and Brahms (E minor, Op 38). Devaris as yet fails to anticipate and breathe through the direction of the music, so that vibrato is applied a fraction of a second too late, intervals are pinched, and phrasing becomes under-nourished. Only with careful coaching and more time spent in imaginative listening will her playing be transformed into true performance.

H.F.

RPO/Temirkanov  
Festival Hall

Unlike some of his senior colleagues, Nigel Kennedy has not yet packed the Brahms Concerto into his fiddle case quite often enough to take the work for granted.

His glinting, sharp-witted playing was the high point of a generally low-key concert of Rossini (*Italian Girl*) and Dvorák (*New World*) given by the Royal Philharmonic under Yuri Temirkanov last night.

It was not a great performance: sometimes the vibrato and portamento were called upon just too readily to shape melody, and they would end up straining it. But Kennedy played, as if it all mattered desperately.

He had a way of tightening and brightening even the playing of his colleagues. He would, for example, urge them to listen with careful, diamond-cut decelerating phrases before the violin's trilling ascent, and before the cadenza. Not without cause was our attention drawn to it: the RPO's programme notes failed to tell us whose it was, but it was Mr Kennedy's own, then its long, stark subjection of every element to a savage minimalism, teased out to the bitter end, was a strikingly original response.

Huberman once commented that this was a concerto "for violin, against orchestra — and the violin wins". It seemed truer than ever last night.

Hilary Finch

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## FASHION by Liz Smith

So fair,  
sew fine

Beads, cording, intricate embroidery  
and appliqué add a flourish of design  
delirium to summer styles, ranging  
from raffia flowers to beribboned roses

A little fancy work has always been highly prized in clothes. Helen of Troy whiled away the hours languidly picking out battle scenes in an early example of twisted-chain or satin stitch.

For her, as for us, the most basic garment becomes a one-off when embellished with embroidery that squanders what is unquestionably the most priceless ingredient of fashion: time.

From the way we cherish a simple Indian cotton kurta with its smattering of stylized lotus flowers stitched around the button placket, to the reverence that has lately greeted the masterpieces of Lesage, the Paris *parurier* who creates the beaded, beribboned and intricately embroidered work in the party dresses of Saint Laurent, Lacroix and Lagerfeld, needlework is enjoying a revival. Petal stitches and rippled ribbons fan out way beyond the confines of couture and on from this summer season into the next.

Paris has the century-old house of Lesage, whose work also includes a stream of extravagant commissions from Seventh Avenue's top designers; London has the 43-year-old firm of S. Lock where the tradition of beautifully handcrafted embroidery, tambour beading, cording and appliqué is flourishing under Wendy Birch, daughter of the founder, Stanley Lock, and Peggy Umpelby.

It is not simply the more theatrical dresses, "dripping with beads", just completed for Ziegfeld, or the two television series for which she has just supplied the glitz, that keeps Peggy busy; it is the increasing demands made by London's fashion designers.

Raffia-embroidered flowers on Bruce Oldfield's summery linens and his jokey Country and Western, embroidered detailing last season were worked by Lock's.

Rita Orbel's success means orders constantly repeated on his strikingly embroidered jackets. Lavish encrustations for Hardy Amies or Murray Arbell ballgowns, twinkling *trompe l'oeil* for Alistair Blair evening T-shirts, and the naive appliqué work for the romantic creations of Salmon & Greene are all handcrafted by Peggy and her team of 14 in the West End workrooms. A similar number of outworkers stitch away for S. Lock in their own homes; one of Peggy's most treasured commissions was the embroidery of 13 metres of cream lace for the Princess of Wales's wedding dress.

Look out for the colourful appliqué, pin-tucking and naive embroidery worked in the Far East by craftsmen with centuries of tradition behind them. Much of the fine embroidery seen in high street shops is worked in India or Hong Kong. "The art of embroidery thrives too in Central Europe and Mexico, and among the Navaho Indians. In China, embroidery retains all its symbolic significance. Inca, in London, imports colourful Peruvian sweaters smothered with appliqué birds and dolls, priced from £39.50. Edina Romay recreates her native Hungarian stitches. Zandra Rhodes relies on Indian craftsmanship for her all-over beaded chiffons, adding the finishing touches of appliqué flowers and beads in her workrooms.



Bruce Oldfield uses black ribbon embroidery for winter. He believes embroidery provides a designer with scope. "It is a strong graphic device," he says. "Whether your theme is Inca, Spanish or simply Country and Western, embroidery supplies the most literal translation. It just hits you in the eye."

Raffia flowers, three-dimensional ribbon roses, Spanish fringing and tassels jostle with each other on this summer's livelier styles. By winter, thick encrustations of ribbon-embroidered lace, curls of passementerie and bullion braid and bold chenille embroidery will be added. Nor have

designers resisted the temptation to embellish their embroideries even more: pompoms are included in the next bit of fancy work.

Embroidery on show: Joas Graham and Harriet Sandys include lavish traditional embroideries among the Ikats hangings and kelims in the Decorative Arts of Central Asia exhibition opening today at the Zamana Gallery, 1 Cromwell Gardens, London SW7. Pip Ran, who has a shop at Islington Green, London N1, is exhibiting her private collection of antique Ikats from Central Asia at the Crafts Council, Waterloo Place, London SW1.



Above: Colourful appliqué of birds and flowers on white cotton shirt, £140, Workers for Freedom, 4 Lower John Street, W1; Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge SW3; Beecham Place Shop, 55 Beecham Place, SW3. White handknit cotton cardigan, decorated with flowers, outlined with colourful beads, £227, Artwork from Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2 and 71 Kings Road, SW3; Harrods, SW3; Erica Harris, Leeds. Black and white striped cuffed trousers in the wool, £130, Joseph Pour La Ville from Joseph Tricot, 16 South Molton Street, W1; 18 Sloane Street, SW1; 288 Brompton Road, SW3. Natural straw hat with embroidered brim, £175, Kirsten Woodward from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Green and white striped raffia shoes, £85, Johnny Moke, 398 Kings Road, SW10.

Top left: Raffia flowers and beads embroidered on red linen jacket, £725, Bruce Oldfield, 27 Beauchamp Place, SW3; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Glided plaited ribbon earrings, £50, Sepcoeur, 2a George Street, W1; mail order: 01-935 0206.

Far left: Flower-encrusted heart centred on plaited black and white ribbon bustier with peplum, striped grosgrain tulip skirt, £3,000; black and white spotted bangle, £245; striped bangle, £210, all Christian Lacroix Luxe at Harrods. Flower earrings, £65, Chantal at Sepcoeur.

Left: Richly decorated Nehru jacket in red linen straw with appliqué purple flowers, £299, Francine Seward at Liberty. Swagged apron skirt in multi-colour flower printed cotton, with lace-edged petticoat, £210, Byblos Options, Harvey Nichols. Glided earrings studded with multi-coloured stones, £45, Chantal at Sepcoeur.

Hair by John Birchall for Edmonds, 40 Beauchamp Place, SW3. Make-up by Ariane. Photographs by TONY MCGEE.

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## Dancing his way to a win

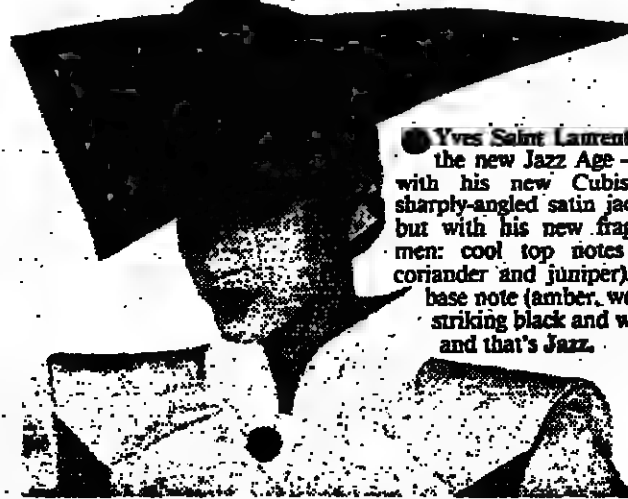
Graham Trevor Harrison, aged 20, from Huddersfield is the winner of this year's Selfridges Scholarship for the post-graduate course in fashion design at the Royal College of Art. He moves from Dewsbury College in West Yorkshire to take up his place at the RCA in the autumn. Harrison is the third to be awarded the £9,000 two-year scholarship. Launched in 1984, to mark the 75th anniversary of the store, the first winner was Stephen Harris, Justine Tabak, winner in 1986, graduates this summer. Entries come from the cream of the fashion industry's burgeoning

talents who have won a place at the RCA. Briefed to create clothes that linked dance with fashion, Harrison produced a colourful scrapbook bursting with background research from ballet which neatly traced the development of both the fabrics chosen and the detailing of his beribboned, striped and elegantly sketched ideas. The judges, Bruce Oldfield and myself, picked as runner-up Jacqueline Palmer from Bracknell, Berkshire, a student at Harrow School of Art. She wins a £800 travel scholarship. Patrick Beaville of Liverpool was third.

Yorkshire's  
better

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent will be guests of honour at the fashion show being held at Harwood House on May 19 in aid of Ripon Cathedral. Designers taking part include one of Yorkshire's more glamorous exports, Bruce Oldfield, and Hardy Amies, Gina Fratini, Penny Green, Anouska Hempel, Ralph Lauren and Zandra Rhodes.

For tickets apply to: Ripon Cathedral Appeal Office, East Wing, The Old Deanery, Ripon, Yorkshire HG4 1QS.



Yves Saint Laurent launched the new Jazz Age — not only with his new Cubist-inspired, sharply-angled satin jackets (left) but with his new fragrance for men: cool top notes (Russian coriander and juniper), a strong base note (amber, wood, sage), striking black and white pack; and that's Jazz.







## BBC1

- 6.00** *Celebrity AM*. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.35** *Edgar Kennedy in Social Terrors* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*. Breakfast Time with John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 *Regional News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes. 9.20 *Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk* chairs a studio discussion on why some people are ruled by compulsive rituals. News and weather followed by *Four Square*. Quiz game (r). 10.00 *News* and weather followed by *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Four Square*. Quiz game (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Shirley Dixon with a reading. 11.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Patti Caldwell and Eamonn Holmes introduce programme makers to their critics. News and weather followed by *Bodyline*. Drs Graeme Garden, Alan Marryon Davis and Gillian Rice look into vision (r). 11.55 *Five to Eleven*. Shirley Dixon with a reading. 12.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Patti Caldwell and Eamonn Holmes introduce programme makers to their critics. News and weather followed by *Bodyline*. Drs Graeme Garden, Alan Marryon Davis and Gillian Rice look into vision (r). 12.55 *Regional News* and weather.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michaela Strachan. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Jane's visit to Mike has major repercussions. 1.50 *Four Square*. Quiz game (r). 2.15 *The High Chaparral*. Western series starring Valerie Harper (r). 3.25 *The Clothes Show* celebrates the centenary of the Merchant Tailors.

## BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: How Electricity is Generated*. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 *Celebrity*. 9.30 *Daytime on Two*: a series for maths teachers of 11- to 16-year-olds. 9.52 *How second year students solve mysteries about a church in Yorkshire*. 10.15 *Jo* he to decide whether or not to reveal a secret when his friend's safety is at risk. 10.38 *A slum-dwelling family in the Bronx*. 10.55 *Conserving the countryside's wildlife*. 11.15 *Episode three of a five-part adventure in France*. 11.55 *Microelectronics*. 12.00 *Problems for 10- to 12-year-olds*. 12.05 *Celebrity*. 12.30 *Lane Austin's letters to her niece*. 12.50 *A Spanish language course* for beginners.
- 1.30** *Postman Pat* (r). 1.58 *Big Top*. Science examines what is in the water we drink and how to build an aquarium. 2.00 *News* and weather followed by a series for four- and five-year-olds featuring Bill Owen (r). 2.15 *Sign English* (r). 2.40 *Under Sail*. With Dave Whitford at the international festival of traditional sailing boats at Douarnenez in Brittany (r). 3.00 *News* and weather followed by *One Is Four*. Magazine series for the disabled introduced by Isabel Ward, Simon Barnes and Chris Davies. This month's edition includes an interview with the transport minister Peter Bottomley, an item on access to the countryside, and tips on easier gardening. (subtitled) 3.35 *Writers' Houses*. Dennis Albee visits the Laugharne home of Dylan Thomas (r). 3.50 *News* and weather. 4.00 *Dr Kildare*. Episode four of the six part medical drama series starring Richard Chamberlain and Raymond Massey (r). 4.25 *An Actor's Life for Me*. Among those reminiscing about the highs and the lows of a thespian's life are Jane Aspin, Nicholas Gambon, Leslie Phillips, Ron Moody and Max Wall (r). 5.00 *Reefwatch*. A repeat of the programme shown on Sunday live from the coral reefs of the Red Sea.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am* begins with *The Sports Show* presented by Geoff Clark. The guests are Willie Carson and Jim McInnes. 6.30 *Morning Show* with Richard Keys. 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* introduced by Anne Diamond and Mike McLean. 7.30 *News* and weather. 8.00 *News* and weather. 8.30 *News* and weather. 9.00 *News* and weather. 9.30 *News* and weather. 10.00 *News* and weather. 10.30 *News* and weather. 11.00 *News* and weather. 11.30 *News* and weather. 12.00 *News* and weather. 12.30 *News* and weather. 1.00 *News* and weather. 1.30 *News* and weather. 2.00 *News* and weather. 2.30 *News* and weather. 3.00 *News* and weather. 3.30 *News* and weather. 4.00 *News* and weather. 4.30 *News* and weather. 5.00 *News* and weather. 5.30 *News* and weather. 6.00 *News* and weather.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.30** *Schools*: wildlife and pollution in Britain's ponds, streams and rivers. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 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# Illegal party outwits KGB

From Christopher Walker Moscow

Members of a new Soviet opposition party, the Democratic Union, defied a police crackdown yesterday and succeeded in meeting in Moscow to adopt a party programme. In a police swoop on the original venue of the founding meeting six people, including the prominent dissident Mr Sergei Grigoryants, were arrested.

According to Mr Yuri Mityunov, a party spokesman, a circle of uniformed militia men and plain clothes KGB agents prevented some 70 people from entering the offices of the independent journal *Glasnost* where the founding meeting of the rival to the Soviet Communist Party had been scheduled.

He claimed that despite the action ordered by the Kremlin, those outside moved on to a nearby cultural club and managed to meet for 30 minutes, during which they adopted a party programme and passed a resolution on membership before the police ordered them out.

Earlier, a further 14 people were detained after attending a founding session in a Moscow flat on Sunday evening. Mr Mityunov said that the authorities had originally held 25 out of 60 people in the flat.

Gdansk—Lord Bethell, who is visiting Poland as part of the Anglo-Polish Round Table, was detained for 50 minutes by police near the strike-bound Lenin shipyard here (Richard Bassett writes). Lord Bethell, who said that he had only been taking photographs of architecture, had his film confiscated. In a separate incident, Western journalists had their notebooks and films seized and were warned by police not to try to enter the shipyard.

—one of three used by the new party for its inaugural conference—but that all but 14 had been released. "The ones held overnight were from out of town and refused to leave Moscow," he explained.

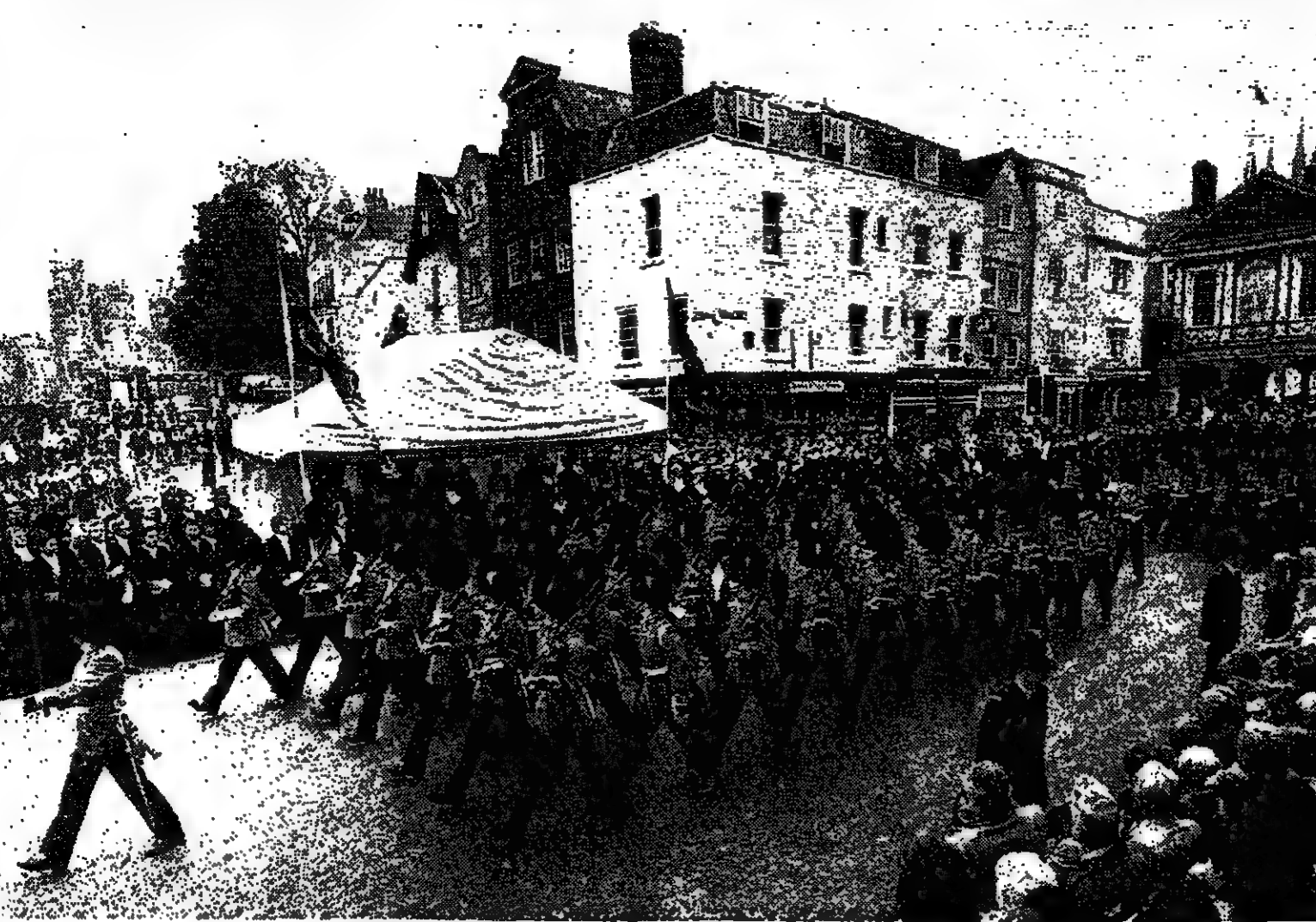
He told Western journalists that before yesterday's clandestine session, the party's platform called for a new Soviet constitution that would allow for a multi-party system and parliamentary democracy. It also demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe.

As part of the clampdown, against the new opposition grouping, 11 of those arrested on Sunday were yesterday expelled from Moscow and put on a plane to Leningrad. Three others were still being held, but were likely to be sent back home soon.

The action of the uniformed police backed by the KGB was understood to have been sanctioned at a high level in the Kremlin. It was dramatic confirmation that the new programme of "socialist pluralism" called for by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, does not encourage the establishment of any new parties.

Spectrum, page 15  
Leading article, page 17

# Grenadiers mark freedom of Windsor



Eyes right: Grenadier Guards marching past a saluting dais in Windsor, Berkshire, yesterday to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the freedom of the Royal borough. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Mayor of Windsor took the salute at the foot of Castle Hill (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

# Drivers blockade Dover and Calais

Continued from page 1

NUS members at the key port of Portsmouth reversed an earlier decision to return to work after being addressed by Mr McCluskie. The union said also that seamen at Weymouth had voted to rejoin the dispute.

Industrial action was also being taken by NUS members at Harwich, Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth, Hull, Middlesbrough, South Shields, Peterhead, Aberdeen, Stranraer, Barrow, Belfast, Fleetwood, Heysham, Liverpool, Holyhead, Fishguard, Falmouth and Folkestone.

The situation with the crew aboard the 46,000 ton P&O cruise ship *Canberra*, which berthed at Southampton yesterday remained unclear with the NUS claiming that the company had banned seamen aboard from taking shore leave to prevent them from meeting union representatives to discuss escalating the action.

A team of Dover lorrymen last night met Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P&O European Ferries, and threatened to continue the blockade until the company agreed to resume negotiations with the NUS.

Mr Tony Budell, 43, from Canterbury, Kent, said: "We have asked the NUS at Dover, and they say they are willing to talk to P&O. We have asked P&O and they say they are not willing to negotiate with the seamen."

"If P&O's management does not have a change of mind, the blockade of the berths will remain."

Owner-driver Mr Peter Hiddle, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said delays at the ports in the last few months had cost him £7,000.

Lorry drivers were fed up with being used as a "football" between the NUS and P&O. "We have no argument with Dover Harbour Board, P&O or Sealink, but we have with the NUS for secondary picketing of the Sealink ferries."

Some drivers have been waiting for two days on the M20 and in the docks. Mr Howard Leighton, 40, from Barking, Essex, said negotiators on the two sides could go home at night, but the drivers could only sit in their cabs.

The Belgian ferry *Prince Laurent* from Ostend berthed at Dover tonight but the blockaders refused to allow vehicles off—there were 42 cars, 22 lorries and 10 coaches on board. Passengers were able to leave if they wished.

About 200 lorries were tonight inside the docks, according to the Harbour Board.

Despite yesterday's blockade of Dover, Sealink hope to be able to go ahead on Thursday with the formal inauguration of a new £45million train ferry service (Rodney Cowton writes).

The ship, the Nord Pas de Calais, will be able to carry complete freight trains, as well as goods vehicles. It will operate on the Dover-Dunkirk route and have a one-hour turnaround time.

Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, said yesterday that it would have 50 per cent more capacity than the three vessels it is replacing.

# Quaking in California

Continued from page 1

become a billion-dollar industry is Miss Shirley MacLaine, a strong proponent of reincarnation and "channeling", the new word for the spiritual medium.

The new mysticism, born of the 1960s, owes much of its success to its happy marriage with the material 1980s and the ethics of the Reagan boom.

Aside from the spiritual factor, New Age magazines, records, computer programs, shops and consulting services are raking in millions. Strong disciples include computer whizzes, corporate lawyers and managing directors.

The new psychics do not simply advise on romance and health—they can tell you what stocks to buy and when to get out of the market. On one wing, New Age techniques are being increasingly used for training by some of the country's biggest corporations.

In this context, Mrs Reagan's astrological leanings are not as far-fetched as they might at first appear. In the Reagan's social circles in California, almost everyone gives some credence to the planets.

Mr Reagan's successor as governor, Mr Jerry Brown, was known as "Governor Moonbeam" for his attachment to mystical beliefs.

On some local television stations the weather forecast is followed by the day's horoscope.

Even *The Washington Post* printed a semi-serious report on Sunday pointing out that as an Aquarius, President Reagan was "in fat city" for this month's summit in Moscow. "The zodiacal bottom line here is that Reagan's abilities to think and communicate (governed by Mercury) will rarely be stronger and his

personal charisma should be at its peak. Whereas during the same interval, Mikhail Gorbachev, a Pisces, will be facing an astro-bummer of gruesome proportions."

Mrs Quigley, the Reagan psychic, said she had provided the First Family with advice on the timing of political events since the early 1970s.

While the psychic fraternity was ecstatic yesterday over their "By Appointment to the White House" credentials, the country's scientists and traditional religious leaders were depressed.

"This is the last straw for a lot of religious people who treated Reagan as their political saviour," said Mr Cal Thomas, a conservative religious columnist in *Newsweek* magazine. "He used to say, 'The answer to all life's problems can be found in the Bible'. I guess he put God on hold..."

# Commons sketch Dilly-Dalyelling with Mr Ingham

Mr Bernard Ingham is an odd fellow who sits slumped at the side of the Press Gallery during Prime Minister's Questions, immoderately busy. He is large and craggy and rather loopy-looking, like one of the background soldiers who used to be employed on such occasions that it is as if he were sitting on a level. Afterwards, the press circle around him listens to his every word, like schoolboys touting for Mars bars from a demobbed prep school Latin master.

There is something so comical about his appearance, and so unremarkable about his location, that it is hard to get very worked up about him. One way or another, somehow, the proximity of such a colourful cove—his hair is a peculiar red, like a carrot with anaemia—to the Prime Minister is rather reassuring, just as the presence of a parrot on Mr Long John Silver's shoulder was rather reassuring, with him in tow, passing by the Service, Mr Richard Luce suggested that Mister Bernard Ingham ought not to be classified as a Civil Servant.

He wished to know, he said, "whether those who talk in the terms he did about the hysteria of the press ought not to be paid out of Conservative Party funds."

The mild-mannered minister suddenly learnt aggression. It was as if St Francis of Assisi had just screamed, "Pull its wings off!" Mr Luce accused Mr Dalyell of always seeking to "dredge up old issues", and he sought to offer a reason why. "He does it because he recognizes the Prime Minister has been such an outstanding success and is of very great integrity and because of that he is trying to undermine the whole position."

Judging by Mr Dalyell's expression—bafflement, exasperation, indignation and outrage all jostling on his face at the same time—it seemed as if he disagreed with at least some of the main gist of Mr Luce's diagnosis. Unbowed, he began to rub his chin with his right hand, ready to fight another day, sure in his belief that as long as the madman Ingham walked the world, not a living soul could sleep in safety.

But fate has set them at odds. Everything that Mr

Ingham does, and much that he fails to do, finds its way into Mr Dalyell's black book. At the weekend, Mr Ingham seemed to have a harsh word or two to say about the press, whom he deemed to be inadequate to their task of "toeing government lines". After a scathing Sunday, Mr Dalyell screamed into the Palace of Westminster the very next day, his complaints as the day unfolded, today found 10 minutes allotted to questions to the Minister for the Civil Service, so Mr Dalyell could sing his grievances in an appropriate setting.

Mr Dalyell always speaks as if he were a Victorian minister foretelling the very gravest of doom for the assembled congregation, and when he enunciates the name of Mr Ingham it is as if he were pronouncing the most iniquitous sin of all. "Mister Bernard Ingham," he booms, and a shudder bolts around the quaking multitude. To the mild-mannered Minister for the Civil Service, Mr Richard Luce suggested that Mister Bernard Ingham ought not to be classified as a Civil Servant.

He wished to know, he said, "whether those who talk in the terms he did about the hysteria of the press ought not to be paid out of Conservative Party funds."

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But fate has set them at odds. Everything that Mr

# Rocard tipped as new French Prime Minister

Continued from page 1

May 21. No particular ceremonies are planned to mark the "passage" of power from Mitterrand I to Mitterrand II.

M Rocard's chances of becoming the new Prime Minister will not have been damaged by a poll yesterday suggesting he is first choice for some 30 per cent of the electorate, well ahead of other possible socialist candidates.

Almost 60 per cent of those questioned wanted Mitterrand to dissolve the present conservative-led National Assembly. In that event, exactly 50 per cent of the French could be expected to vote for the left, 46 per cent for the right.

The possibility of M Mitterrand going outside the socialist ranks for his Prime Minister has not been ruled out, although one leading figure associated with the conservative centre, the much respected Mme Simone Veil, indicated yesterday that she would not accept any post in the new government.

While she made it clear she did not consider it likely that other prominent members of the "moderate right"—those outside the Chirac camp—would serve under M Mitterrand, she did not rule out "restructuring and regroupment" within the mainstream conservative movement.

M Lionel Jospin, the secretary of the Socialist Party,

sounded distinctly unenthusiastic about the prospect, raised yesterday by former President Giscard, of a "constructive opposition" remaining in place in the National Assembly. "After a victory like M Mitterrand has just achieved, it is hard to see how the present opposition can remain in a parliamentary majority."

Meanwhile, the Parisian bourse took Sunday's drama in its stride, with share prices largely unchanged. On foreign exchange markets, the franc was equally steady. According to one financial observer, foreign investors have already concluded that "the French have voted for a president to

unite them, not for a man of the left."

● LONDON: World leaders yesterday welcomed the election of President Mitterrand and press commentators blamed the political opportunism of M Chirac for his humiliating defeat (Reuters reports).

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, who with President Mitterrand has strengthened close ties between the two countries, said: "The French voters have with this vote given their clear support for your work for the well-being of the French people, for Europe and for peace in the world."

In his statement, addressed "Mr President, my dear François", Herr Kohl said he was

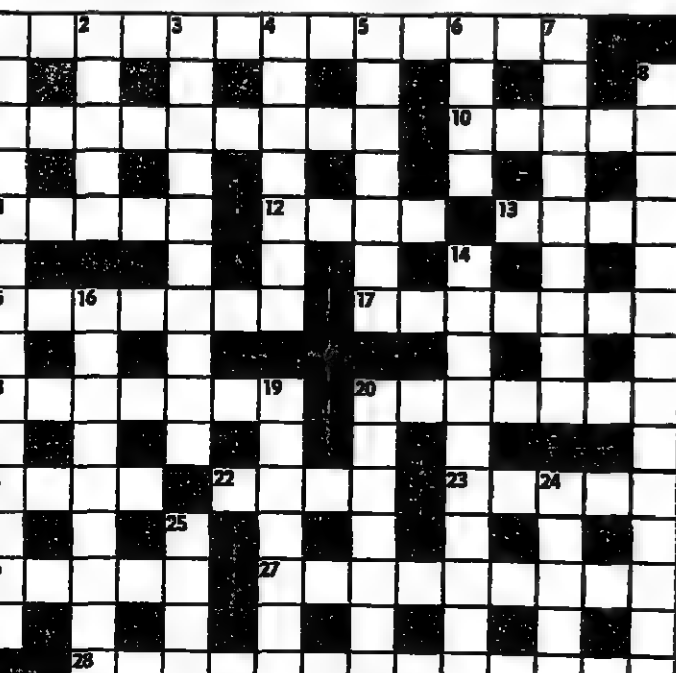
sure that he and M Mitterrand would continue to work towards even closer links.

"The close co-operation between our two countries is one of the essential prerequisites for European unity which we together want completed," Herr Kohl said.

Chancellor Vranitzky of Austria said M Mitterrand's victory was a "great day for European social democracy". He said the vote "raises hopes that the rightist populism and rightist extremism will receive a clear rejection in other European countries."

In Moscow, Tass and Moscow Radio reported President Mitterrand's victory without comment.

# THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,665



- ACROSS**
- 19 At sea in boats demonstrate enjoyment (5,4,4).
  - 9 Measure money paid and food provided (2,7).
  - 10 Refuse to give ditch digger money (5).
  - 11 City's water supply (5).
  - 12 Nameless Athenian about to pass over (4).
  - 13 Expecting a giant (4).
  - 15 Main side has love song incorporating Beethoven's First (7).
  - 17 Ingenious way to disguise a gentle (7).
  - 18 German city provided reciprocal art (7).
  - 20 Note sieve used by cook (7).
  - 21 Rattle in. we hear, a city... (4).
  - 23 One said to stick round home (5).
  - 27 Chap had returned with help (4,1,4).
- DOWN**
- 28 Writer emends spurned characters in play (6,7).
  - 1 Robin nested in trees (8,6).
  - 2 Harrow, where a European turns up (5).
  - 3 Station put second in card vote (5,5).
  - 4 Offensive rumour about merit award (7).
  - 5 Nurse is on the go early in the morning (7).
  - 6 Press gives one man... (4).
  - 7... Peter, on a drug trip, protection (9).
  - 8 Sally has a wind instrument in a black box (6-8).
  - 14 Just hurry—I am at the end of the line (10).
  - 16 Destroy museum, uttering calamities (9).
  - 19 Exotic character shows speech defect up in time (7).
  - 20 The reason for Scottish policies (7).
  - 24 Plenty see the notices (5).
  - 25 Hit for six—or seven (4).

# WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

# DEUTSCHE SPRACHE

By Philip Howard

- JOHANNHEIM**  
a. A play by Goethe  
b. A Prussian literary journalist  
c. A famous school
- DIE HOREN**  
a. A magazine  
b. A literary brothel  
c. A school of novelists
- ENGELHARD**  
a. A literary publisher  
b. A Silesian literate  
c. A verse romance
- SCHIMMELCK**  
a. A Green journalist  
b. A fictional soviet  
c. A Gothic horror play

Answers on page 22, column 1

# Solution to Puzzle No 17,664

H	O	R	S	E	P	O	W	E	R	A																	
T	O	R	A	A	L	P	H	A																			
S	T	A	M	M	E	R	S																				
U	S	D																									
S	R	I																									
C	E	D																									
A	R	T																									
L	A	C																									
E	A	H																									
C	O	N																									
O	M																										
N	A	P																									
I	I																										
A	B	O																									
T	N	O																									
A	L	E																									
X	A	L																									

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Handwritten notes at the top right of the page.

MARKETS THE POUND

FT 30 Share	1438.0 (-2.1)
FT-SE 100	1794.9 (-6.2)
US\$ (Datastream)	155.42 (+1.25)
US dollar	1.8805 (+0.0180)
W. German mark	3.1602 (+0.0293)
Trade-weighted	78.5 (+0.6)

# THE TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 10 1988

PART 2  
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-32  
SPORT 44-48

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## SE listing delay for Shani

Shani Group, the designer and manufacturer of women's clothing, has had its market debut unexpectedly delayed by the Stock Exchange due to a technical hitch.

The prospectus was due to have been published today. Capel-Cure Myers, Shani's adviser, now hopes to be able to publish it within the next few days.

The company, which is seeking a full listing, is expected to be valued at between £12 million and £14 million.

Tempus, page 26

## Staley talks

Staley Continental Inc, whose board has rejected a \$35-a-share tender offer by Tate & Lyle, yesterday said it is continuing discussions with third parties and has started talks on a possible acquisition of the entire company or one of its principal business segments.

## Coloroll claim

Mr John Ashcroft's home furnishings group, Coloroll, last night claimed acceptance of 25 per cent in its takeover bid for John Crowther, the textile group.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	1988.57 (-7.78)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27284.50 (-228.47)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2584.00 (+12.29)
Amsterdam	AEX	243.6 (-1.8)
Sydney	AO	1410.8 (-11.7)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1328.5 (-18.7)
Paris	CAC	4738.1 (-10.3)
Zurich	SIX	3113.5 (+2.5)
London	FT-30	1438.0 (-2.1)
London	FT-100	1794.9 (-6.2)
London	FT-1000	1794.9 (-6.2)
London	FT-10000	1794.9 (-6.2)

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES

Aluminium	95.40 (+1.70)
Schroders	87.50 (+2.25)
Microfilm	44.00 (+1.00)
Centenary	17.00 (+1.00)
Elms (Wimbledon)	25.00 (+1.00)
A Wood	15.00 (+1.00)
Stanley Leisure	15.00 (+1.00)
Guthrie	25.00 (+1.00)
Hunting Assoc.	44.25 (+3.00)
Marsay Dock	30.00 (+2.00)
Ayrshire Metal	14.00 (+2.00)

FALLS

Honda	75.75 (-3.00)
Cons Gold	95.50 (-1.00)
Cussons	32.00 (-1.00)
Traveler House	30.00 (-1.00)

STAGNANT

Bargains	2844.5
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## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base Rate 8%

3-month interbank	8.15%
3-month eligible bills	7.75%
buying rate	8.15%
US Prime Rate	8.5%
Federal Funds	6.75%
3-month Treasury Bills	8.30-8.25%
30-year bonds	9.75-9.7%

## CURRENCIES

London

\$	\$1.8805
DM	DM3.1602
Sfr	Sfr2.0368
FF	FF10.7207
Yen	Yen234.50
Index	Index78.5

ECU

ECU	ECU10.857041
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## GOLD

London Fixing

AM	\$443.80 pm \$444.40
close	\$444.75-445.25 (\$226.80-227.00)

New York

Comex	\$444.75-445.25
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## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$18.60 (\$18.52)

oil	\$18.60 (\$18.52)
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## THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

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- Recent additions include: TR Technology Zero Dividend Pref (02846), TR Technology Stopped Pref (02816), Govett American Endeavour Fund (02649), Victrola (02810), Roskel (02813), Clinton Cards (02801), LGW (02807), Porvair (02804), Kitty Little (02794), Patnam Group (02798), Johnstone Press (02789).
- Details, page 28.

## Swiss group 'will not abandon' battle for Rowntree

# Pressure rises for referral of Nestlé bid

Nestlé, the Swiss foods conglomerate, has no intention of abandoning its fight for Rowntree, the confectionery group, even if Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, decides to refer the £2 billion bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

As political pressure for a referral intensified yesterday, Herr Helmut Maucher, the managing director of Nestlé, said in London: "We see no reason to give up this quickly."

He confirmed that Nestlé would continue to buy Rowntree shares in the stock market until it had won control. Last night further buying lifted its stake to 11 per cent.

Nestlé expressed its determination to continue the battle as Mr Kenneth Dixon, the Rowntree chairman, wrote to his shareholders urging them to reject the bid. Many City institutions have turned their backs on Rowntree and sold shares, enabling Jacobs Suchard, a rival Swiss chocolate group, to raise its holding to 29.6 per cent.

Suchard is now barred from buying more shares unless it makes a full offer, allowing the price to drop to the level where Nestlé can buy at its bid price of 900.5p. More than 40 per cent of Rowntree is now in foreign hands.

Herr Maucher - who last night met MPs of all parties to try to dispel their fears over the future of the York group if the takeover bid succeeds - said Nestlé had not been surprised by the political backlash over its offer.

"This is the normal sort of reaction you would expect and we have not been put out by it. We think we have a good case for getting together with Rowntree and are quite prepared to support it. We are convinced that if we join forces with them we can sell more Rowntree products and that means more work for its employees. We can assure people that there will not be less jobs."

Herr Maucher said he did not know whether the MMC would investigate the offer but said: "From an outsider's view I cannot see any reason. This is not a political or state issue. It is a private affair. The offer has nothing to do with national interests."

He dismissed suggestions that York could become an outpost of the Swiss company if the deal goes through. "That is not the case at all. Of course, certain strategic decisions will have to be agreed but we think there will be more work with us than without us."

Herr Maucher said Nestlé preferred not to launch hostile bids but had been spurred into action by the "dawn raid" launched by Jacobs Suchard. "Because of that we had to move quickly. The decision not to do anything before because of our principles has cost us a lot of money."

He refused to accept that Nestlé had been outflanked by Suchard, which had almost 30 per cent of the company. "We have 11 per cent so the rest of the shares are still available in the stock market and we believe that the price we are offering is very attractive. We have offered this price to show that we are not playing any games."

But Nestlé was accused by Mr Dixon of offering too little. "Nestlé is offering an inadequate price at which to surrender control of a company with Rowntree's brand strengths and inherent value."



Resisting pressure: Helmut Maucher at the Savoy yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

## Stead & Simpson rejects £89m bid

By Alexandra Jackson

Clayton Properties, the property development and retail group, has launched an £89.45 million cash bid for Stead & Simpson, the shoe shop chain.

Stead & Simpson is recommending its shareholders to reject the unsolicited offer.

Mr Frank Chamberlain, the chairman of Stead & Simpson, said the bid would be shown to be particularly inadequate against group results for the year to end-March. These will now be published in a defence document, with a property valuation. The last property valuation at Stead & Simpson gave a figure of £80 million as at end-March 1987.

Clayton is offering £12 per Stead & Simpson ordinary share of which there are 1.6 million, and 125p for every 'A' non-voting share, of which there are 36.8 million.

Clayton already owns 29.99 per cent of Stead & Simpson's voting shares, having bought the stake from Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur.

The cash offer, for which there is a loan note alternative, values Stead & Simpson at 25 times after tax earnings for the year to end-March 1987 when it made £5.5 million pretax profit.

Clayton has extensive property interests in Britain and owns and operates Schöffels, a department store chain in Leeds and Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Stead & Simpson ordinary shares rose from 107.5p to 125.5p yesterday while the 'A' shares rose from 120p to 129p.

Tempus, page 26

## Bullish forecast helps sterling to strong rise

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound rose strongly yesterday, prompted by an attempt by the Bank of England to hold it down. But it held firm to close above the level that brought about the previous reduction in base rates.

The pound rose strongly against all currencies, with the main influence a bullish report on sterling's prospects from the securities house Goldman Sachs.

Dealers said the report gave the markets an opportunity to push sterling higher, and there was at least one very substantial commercial buying order for pounds.

The pound closed three pence up at DM3.1606, two pence above the level when base rates were cut from 8.5 to 8 per cent on April 8.

Dealers said part of the pound's strength derived from the fact that the Bank of England was seen to be extremely reluctant to concede a further cut in base rates in response to the pound's strength, because of worries about domestic credit growth.

The pound rose by 1.4 cents to \$1.8805 and the sterling index gained 0.6 of a point to 78.5.

The Goldman Sachs report, *Sterling Policy and Sterling's Prospects*, took issue with the Chancellor's view that the pound's rise against the mark was unsustainable.

It concluded that a renewed push into the DM3.15-3.20 range was likely, and that on the basis of relative inflation rates a sterling-mark level of DM3.27 would not be inappropriate.

Mr David Morrison, the London-based chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, confessed himself to be somewhat surprised at the extent of the market reaction to his report, which did not contain a new forecast.

His forecast of a rise in sterling's value towards DM3.20 and \$2 was published some time ago, with the latest report providing detailed technical back-up, in the form of a challenge to the Chancellor's view.

Mr Morrison cited other factors as contributing to the pound's rise, notably the poor showing of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrat party in West German state elections.

## Kleinwort US deal with Fuji

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, the merchant banking group, is to sell 24.9 per cent of its US primary dealership in government bonds to Fuji Bank, the world's third largest bank.

The agreement, which will include a capital injection into the business by Fuji, is the latest in a series of partnership arrangements by Japanese institutions in the US markets.

The deal, which has been under negotiation since the end of last year, is likely to be completed in the next two weeks. Fuji will then seek permission from the Federal Reserve Bank to become a participant in the government bond market.

Kleinwort Benson Government Securities, the Chicago dealership bought by KBL in 1984, has equity and debt capital of \$48 million (£25.54 million). KBL expects to sell 24.9 per cent of the existing capital to Fuji and then increase the primary dealer's capital to about \$65 million.

KBGS is a middle sized player with about 1.4 per cent of government bond market turnover - well above the 0.75 per cent required to become a primary dealer.

Mr Jonathan Agnew, head of Kleinwort's securities operations, said: "This brings in a very powerful partner. We have long standing links with Fuji, which will contribute extra capital and will bring more Japanese business in US Treasury bonds to KBGS." He added that the move did not include any reciprocal arrangements in Japan.

The partnership deal gives Fuji an immediate entry into the massive US government bond market. Japanese investors have become a significant factor in the US market.

## Stanhope Properties seeks injection of new capital

By John Bell and Allison Eadie

Stanhope Properties, which joined the Unlisted Securities Market last year, has revealed that it is in talks over a substantial injection of new capital by a "major investor".

Talks are continuing on the basis of 250p per share.

Stanhope was formed by Mr Stuart Lipton, one of the leading figures in the London property world, in 1983. It is involved in a number of large scale London developments, most notably the massive Broadgate project at Liverpool Street Station. Its partner in the 3.3 million sq ft development is another highly thought of concern, Rosehaugh, run by Mr Godfrey Bradman.

No clues were given as to the identity of the potential partner. Analysts pointed out that while Stanhope has a great deal of future value to be unlocked as its development programme proceeds, it will need cash before too long to fund new work. Names mentioned as possible stakeholders in Stanhope included the Japanese concern, Kajima Corporation, with which Stanhope already has links.

There were suggestions last week that the two companies were considering making an offer for the Stockley Park development, near Heathrow. Interests connected with Mr Elliot Bernerd, and Rosehaugh itself have also been mentioned.

Meanwhile, the London Docklands Development Corporation has given a conditional go-ahead to a £500 million joint venture between Roschaugh and Stanhope Properties for the first phase of the redevelopment of the Royal Albert Dock and Basin in London's East End.

The plan to develop 128 acres to the north and east of the dock includes a shopping and leisure centre, a marina, a business park and a residential area. The LDDC approval, which is conditional upon final financial and other details, comes after two years of negotiation.

## BAA takes up options

BAA has exercised its options over shares in Lynton Property & Reversionary, the property group, and now owns a stake of 19.8 per cent.

The move is seen in the City as a prelude to a full takeover, but BAA refused to confirm or deny this. BAA paid 20p per share for its options at an exercise price of 380p.

## Inflation edges upwards

Inflation is edging higher, price figures out yesterday suggest. The pound's rise has had a limited effect on the price of imported raw materials (David Smith writes).

April producer price figures showed a 0.6 per cent increase in output prices for manufacturers, compared with 0.5 per cent in March, and a rise of 4.2 per cent on a year earlier.

Officials said about a quarter of the monthly rise was due to excise duty changes in the Budget.

Raw material and fuel costs also rose by 0.6 per cent last month, after a 2.1 per cent fall in March. The 12-month rise moved up to 2.8 per cent from 2.3 per cent.

## Consumer credit hits record level

By Our Economics Correspondent

Record amounts of consumer credit were advanced in March alongside booming retail sales.

The official figures will add to the concern over the rapid pace of credit expansion in the economy, expected to be given some prominence by the Bank of England, in its *Quarterly Bulletin* on Thursday.

On both the consumer credit measures favoured by the Department of Trade and Industry, the credit picture was very buoyant in March.

Credit advanced by finance houses, other specialist lenders and on bank credit cards totalled £3.43 billion, above the high February level of £3.38 billion and well above previous monthly levels.

Amounts outstanding on credit, after allowing for people paying off credit card borrowing, for example, rose by £423 million to £23.98 billion, its biggest increase since this measure was first monitored two years ago.

Final March retail sales figures showed that the fall initially announced for the month had been revised to a small rise. Retail sales volume rose by 0.2 per cent to 135.5 (1980=100) in March, 7.5 per cent up on a year earlier. The weekly value of sales was £1.97 billion, up from £1.89 billion in February.

## Election victory welcomed in French markets

# Seven-year switch for Mitterrand

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

What a difference seven years makes. When Francois Mitterrand was first elected the president of France in 1981, shares plunged 20 per cent and the Paris bourse had to be closed for two days. Yesterday "Ton-Ton" - "Grandfather" - Mitterrand's re-election at the weekend was better received. The bourse rose strongly, and the franc also rose, against worries that its post-election weakness would force an early realignment within the European monetary system.

The spot indicator of prices on the Paris Bourse, *L'Indicateur de Tendence*, rose by almost 2.4 per cent during strong trading yesterday morning, before subsiding to show a net 1 per cent gain.

The franc was fixed in Paris at 339.46 per DM100, against Fr340 on Friday, its highest level against the mark since before the first round of polling, on April 24.

Dealers and analysts said that while President Mitterrand's victory was widely expected, the markets had reacted positively because of signs that the new administration will start a period of co-operation around the political centre.

Although there are both short and long-term uncertainties, notably M. Mitterrand's choice of prime minister and the timing of elections to the National Assembly, the reaction of the markets has been in sharp contrast to 1981, when he was first elected president.

Then, widespread selling of French shares by foreign investors sent share prices down by 20 per cent and led to the closure of the Paris bourse for two days. The Government was forced to impose exchange controls to stem the flood of capital flowing out of France. And the election triggered the first of many franc devaluations within the EMS.

This time, no such reaction was thought likely, partly because the 1988 version of President Mitterrand is considered very different from that of 1981. The margin of M. Mitterrand's victory, with 54.05 per cent of the votes against 45.95 per cent for his rival M. Jacques Chirac, indicates that he obtained support from all parts of the political spectrum, analysts said.

M. Pierre Bergery, the French finance minister during 1984-86, and M. Mitterrand's campaign manager during the election, has ruled out an early EMS realignment. M. Bergery is likely to be named as finance minister this week.

No large changes in economic policy are anticipated. Even privatization, thought to have been forced upon President Mitterrand by his right wing prime minister M. Chirac, will continue. Companies such as Rhône-Poulenc, the chemicals and pharmaceuticals combine and Credit Lyonnais, the bank, will push for early privatization.

Analysts said the French stock market is likely to enter a quieter phase as dealers wait to see how the new government shapes up. "It had all been well discounted but the resurgence in interest seems to be because people regard a government with both left and right wing politicians as being quite positive," said Mr David Harrington, of SBCI-Savory Mills, the broker.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## French raider likely to touch CAP limit

Cap Gemini Sogeti, the unwanted French corporate raider troubling CAP Group, the British software company, is likely to have gathered a 29.9 per cent stake, the maximum permissible without a full bid, before the end of this week. Its holding has been lifted to 29.61 per cent, from 28.3 per cent previously revealed, by the purchase of another 400,000 shares in the market. CGS is thought to have a standing order in the stock market through Warburg Securities, the stockbroker, to buy at about 23 a share. Last night CAP was down 3p at 297p.

The French have pledged not to make a full bid. Meanwhile, Volmac, the Dutch computer house, has raised its own friendly holding in CAP to 11.09 per cent, in an effort not to see its stake diluted when the British group merges with Sema-Metra of France.

## IMI increases US coverage Rea Brothers buyout plan

IMI, the engineer once known as Imperial Metal Industries, has US coast-to-coast coverage with the purchase of Doran Brothers, a Connecticut food and drink packager, for an undisclosed sum. Doran has an annual turnover of about £1.6 million. IMI's Cannon Equipment Company, operates in the Midwest and its Bonas Blit on the West Coast.

## Hall agrees £2m deal

Hall Engineering, the steel stockholder and wire mesh manufacturer, has agreed to buy Crylic Designs and Pricemakers, two related companies based in Chesham, Hertfordshire, for a maximum of £2 million. Crylic supplies acrylic and plastic display materials, while Pricemakers sells a range of flexible pricing systems produced for it by Crylic.

The two companies share the same ownership and made profits of £64,000 in the year to end-October 1987, before non-recurring exceptional items and tax. Hall is paying £267,000 in cash immediately, with further payments over the next two years depending on the companies raising profits.

## AG Stanley hits back

AG Stanley, the Feds to Home Charm chain, launched a sharp attack last night on the retailing ability of Ward White which has launched a hostile £103 million takeover bid for the company. "Ward White's plans for AG Stanley betray their ignorance of the high street decorative products market and make no commercial sense."

Ward White's latest comments serve only to expose their inexperience in this area," says AG Stanley. The response follows a letter from Mr Philip Birch, Ward White chairman, to AG Stanley shareholders criticising its recent performance.

## Stead banks on shareholder loyalty

It was only a matter of time before someone used the much-hawked stake in Stead & Simpson to launch a full bid, despite the daunting presence of a directors' and family holding, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of the voting shares.

Clayform is no doubt hoping to sway the balance by flushing out the company's more distant friends and relations by offering a generous price for the influential voting shares, of which it already owns 29.9 per cent.

So far the Stead & Simpson directors have rebuffed Clayform's approach and are busy mustering their defences.

This will prove hard work as Stead & Simpson's record is unimpressive. Pretax profits since 1985 have edged up from £3.2 million to £3.5 million on sales 19 per cent higher at £70 million.

Competitive pressures in the group's 260 shoe shops last year were blamed for the dull performance. They generated 78 per cent of profits.

The Leicester motor dealerships have been showing steady growth, however, and contributed £1.2 million to group profits last year.

Clayform plans to redevelop a number of Stead & Simpson stores, together with adjacent properties, to form larger retailing developments. Otherwise, it believes there is scope to improve considerably the return on the core retailing

business and upgrade the product range.

Clayform's gearing ratio soars to 150 per cent of shareholders' funds if the deal goes through. Strong cash flow will help reduce this to 100 per cent, with which Clayform is happy.

Its last stated asset value was 250p, but is probably 40 per cent higher by now. The shares, at 293p, are therefore selling at a premium to stated, but discount to estimated, asset values.

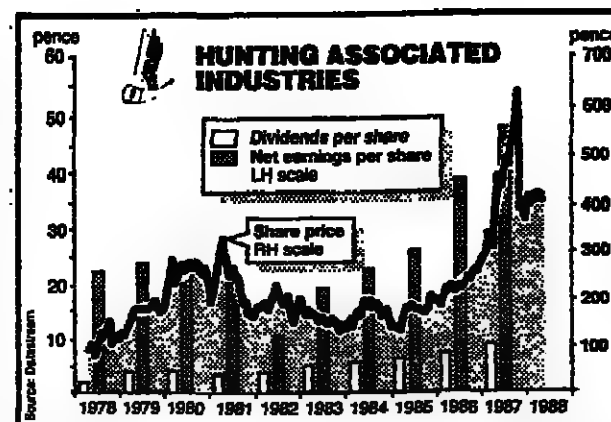
Clayform has considerable expertise in retailing as its chairman, Mr David Hyman, started life as a retailer. Schofields, the department store chain, has already been turned around.

Stead & Simpson's asset value was £80 million in March 1987 but Clayform has done its own sums and clearly thinks it is worth more.

Franchised shareholders may be happy to abandon a yield of under 0.5 per cent at the offer price, unless they are inextricably bound by ties of past loyalties to Stead & Simpson.

## Hunting Industries

Hunting Associated Industries, now well over its 1984 profit setback, is beginning to turn in the kind of consistent profits growth that



good investments are made of. While turnover only inched forward in 1987 by 2 per cent, pretax profit was up by 53 per cent, from £11.8 million to £18.1 million.

The dividend increase at 14.8 per cent is less dramatic, and the payment is covered by healthy 6.2 times (compared with 5.4 times a year ago). A steady dividend progression counts for a lot, and in time the gap between earnings and dividends may narrow.

The key to the improved profitability lies in the movement from planning to production by defence activities; in another good performance by aviation support activities; and, after a general sorting-out process, in the transformation from losses to profits by resource surveys.

There was also the acquisition of Metair in 1987, whose nine-month profits —

seeing pretax profits up to the £22.5 million level.

There will be a full year's contribution from Metair, while under its purchase agreement Lynwood is targeted to produce at least £1.85 million this year, £2.65 million in 1989 and £5.4 million in the 1990 financial year.

At 443p on a prospective rating of 8, Hunting shares are well worth picking up on a dull day.

## Shani Group

Textile companies are often regarded as low-quality, high-risk investments. Fashion is fickle, and every manufacturer dreads the rails of unsold, end-of-season clothes in the wrong colour or the wrong length, victims of consumer taste or of our unpredictable British climate.

Shani Group is a garment manufacturer which has discovered ways of minimizing these risks. In the process, it has built for itself a solid niche business based on close customer ties with such well-known high street names as C&A, Debenhams, British Home Stores and Dorothy Perkins.

Shani's buyers will travel the world in search of fabrics for its garments, but the company minimizes the risk of costly mistakes by ordering in bulk only on receipt of the

customer's order. Sample fabrics are tested for durability, colour fastness, stretching, washing and quality.

The majority of the designs are mainstays of the wardrobe, rather than high fashion items, further reducing risk. Manufacturing costs are kept down by computerized, mechanized production methods, while about one third of the garments are manufactured by sub-contractors, offering a buffer against a downturn in orders.

The net result is a business whose turnover has nearly doubled in the last five years to £11.9 million last year. Pretax profits have risen from £1.1 million in 1982 to £1.8 million in 1987 and are expected to reach £1.8 million to £2 million in the financial year to July 31.

Its heavy dependence on C&A, which accounts for 54 per cent of its sales, gives a slightly downmarket image, despite Shani's concentration on the better quality end of C&A's business.

A further caution is that the group has ambitions to expand by acquisition, where it will need to build experience.

However, given the company's strong relationships with its customers, the prospective sector average multiple of 10, on the expected market capitalization of £12 million to £14 million, looks fair.

Stock market report is on page 38

## GrandMet in \$32m US superstore buy

By Colin Campbell

Grand Metropolitan, in its second large American deal in six weeks, is to pay \$32 million (£17 million) cash for the Houston chain of 38 optical superstores operating as Eye-Tech.

GrandMet's Dallas subsid-

iary, Pearle Health Services, which recently agreed to buy the Kentucky Vision Express chain, operator of 27 superstores in the Midwest, has agreed to buy certain assets of Eye-Optics Inc. in the year ended December, Eye-Optics reported an operating loss of

\$6 million on annual sales of \$32 million.

Mr Allen Sheppard, GrandMet's chairman and chief executive, said Pearle had been turned around in the past 18 months into a profitable retail operation with exciting growth prospects. The latest

deal and the earlier Vision Express acquisition would make an immediate contribution to earnings, he said.

Both American acquisitions are subject to regulatory approvals, but the formalities are expected to be completed by the end of next month.

## Nursery profits blooming

By Our City Staff

Cranphorn, the USM-quoted garden centre and nursery, raised interim pretax profits by more than 25 per cent from £84,542 to £106,031 on sales up marginally from £6.8 million to £6.9 million.

Earnings per share were up from 1.88p to 2.35p, after tax of £38,000 (£30,000). The interim dividend is held at 1.25p.

Nursery stock losses were prevented and garden centre sales assisted by the mild winter weather.

Despite the wet weather during the autumn, sales over Christmas were particularly satisfactory.

Mr AJ Dye, who along with family interests owns nearly 8 per cent of Cranphorn's equity, has joined the board. Shares of Cranphorn greeted news of the profits increase and Mr Dye's appointment with a jump of 25p to 330p.

## GM and Toyota link up

Melbourne (Reuters) — General Motors and Toyota, the world's largest carmakers and fierce competitors, yesterday agreed to join forces in Australia.

Australian divisions of the Japanese and US companies will share several models to be sold under their brands.

GM and Toyota have formed United Australian Automotive Industries to co-ordinate design, engineering and model sharing, using Toyota and GM facilities from mid-1989, but marketing the vehicles independently, the companies said.

The joint venture aims to produce up to 170,000 vehicles a year, about 40 per cent of the Australian market.

General Motors spent more than US\$490 million at 1987 values last year bailing out its Australian unit, Holden's Motor Company, after heavy losses.

## Fairbairn buys developer

Fairbairn, the Surrey house-builder and property developer, has paid £559,151 for Knightsquare, a Christchurch, Hampshire, developer.

The purchase is being funded by the issue of 100,000 new ordinary shares in Fairbairn at 400p each and £159,151 in cash. Knightsquare lost £19,605 before tax in the year to end-December 1986, when it had a net deficit of assets of £21,818.

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.00%
Adam & Company	8.00%
BOC	8.00%
Consolidated Cret	8.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.00%
C. Hoare & Co	8.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.00%
Lloyds Bank	8.00%
Nat Westminster	8.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.00%
TSB	8.00%
Citibank NA	8.00%

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '88	Vol '88	Vol '88	Vol '88
ADT 1,580	Costs 564	Land Sep 122	Royal Ind 1,085
Ady 577	CU 947	Larsen 1,233	Satchi 526
Ald-Lyons 2,956	Coor Gold 112	LBS 519	Selwyn 804
Amsted 941	Cookson 881	Lloyds 519	Scott & N 314
ASDA 188	Courtauld 512	Lorino 283	Seas 1,327
AB Foods 3,647	Dalrymple 367	Lucas 1,181	Seaford 371
Argyll 1,478	Doe 912	Magnet 1,984	Shall 690
BAA 3,800	Dunlop 728	MAS 1,792	Smith & N 2,819
BEL 98	ECC 1,528	Maxwell Cn 5,478	Smith Ind 95
BTR 836	Enterprise 95	MEPC 478	STC 1,021
BAT 830	Farrant 1,648	Minist Box 128	STC 1,021
Bardays 355	Ferres 873	Midland 1,242	Stan Chart 456
Bass 884	FG Babcock 74	NatWest 801	Stanford 1,758
Beocham 339	Gan Acc 74	Nat 2,587	Sun Alliance 979
Besser 582	IBD 2,353	Nat Food 851	T & N 1,389
Berford SW 475	Glaxo 770	PILO 2,353	Tate & Lyle 932
BICC 475	Globe Inv 98	Pearl 278	TSE 851
Blue Arrow 1,058	Glyndwr 916	Pearson 1,303	Thames 521
Blue Circle 1,281	Granada 174	Pedding 1,242	Thom EMI 228
BOC 2,055	Granada Mkt 389	Plessey 947	Thomson 3,839
Boots 1,205	Griffiths 389	Prodent 708	TIC 1,757
BPA 434	GRIE 389	Racal 4,259	Ultramar 516
Br Aero 385	GKN 2,611	RK Hovis 699	Unigate 4,225
Br Airways 1,142	Guinness 274	Rank 202	Unilever 744
Br Comm 738	Hamm A 35	RBC 76	United BS 437
Br Gas 11,000	Hanson 8,818	Redland 60	Unid News 58
Br Telecom 6,399	Hawthorn 151	Reed 388	Walden 1,958
Burnt 912	ICI 1,001	RTZ 1,018	Wills 250
Burnish 940	Inchcape 500	R-Royce 8,614	Windsor 191
Burton 1,338	Jaguar 511	Rothmans 1,332	Worship G 1,253
C&N 403	Lasmo 648	Rowntree 7,574	Woolworth 2,313
Cashbury 3,852	Ladbroke 287	Royal Bank 444	Equities page 31

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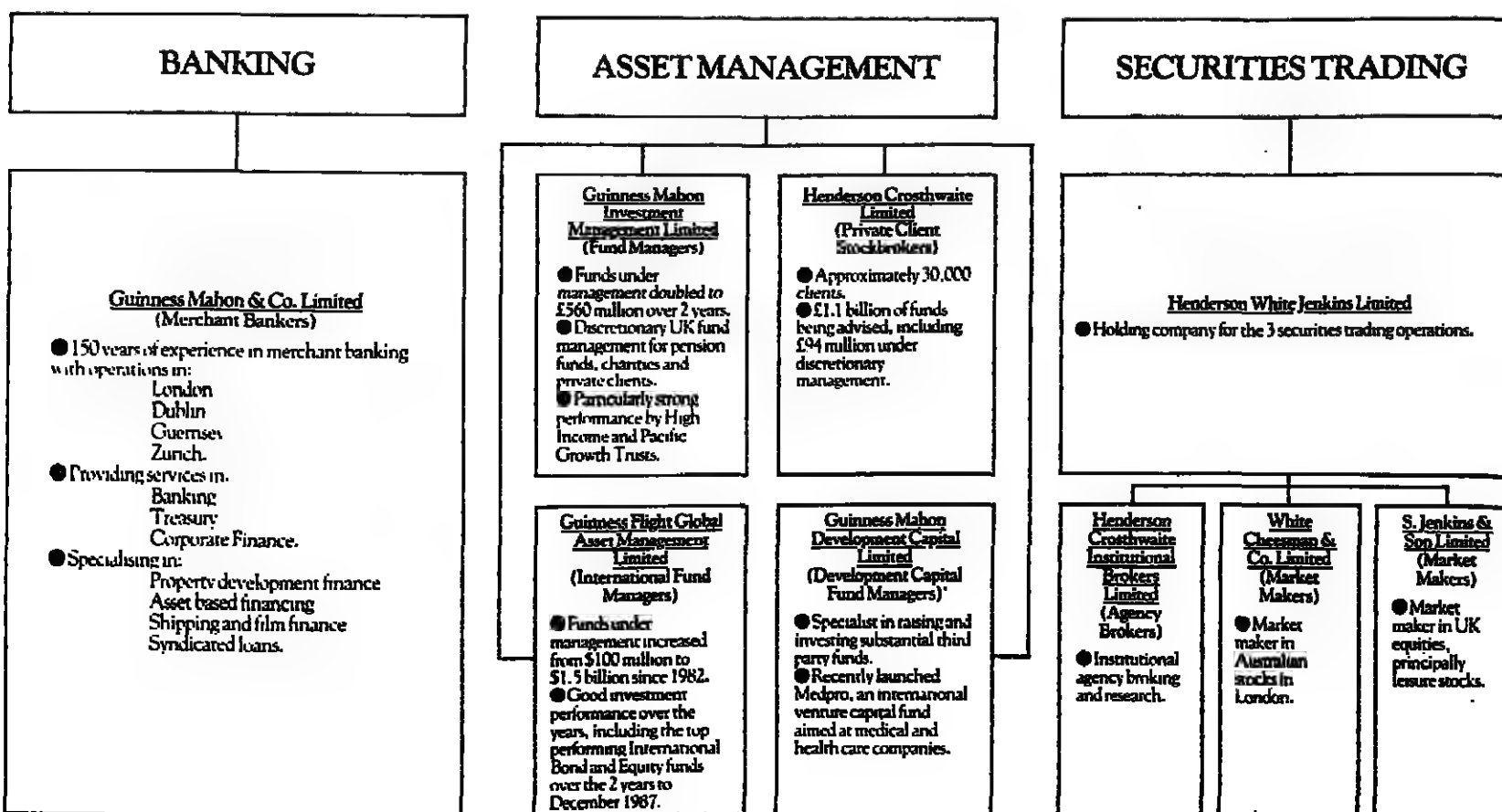
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# ECC boosts US production with \$74.25m purchase

By Alexandra Jackson

English China Clays, the minerals and construction group, has tripled the capacity of its US calcium carbonate business with the acquisition of plants and reserves in Alabama, Georgia, Vermont and California from Cyprus Minerals Company, a listed US group.

The purchase price of \$74.25 million (£39.7 million) is being met by the issue of a £40 million convertible Euro-bond, due 2003. The bonds will be in denominations of £1,000 and £10,000 with a rate of between 6.5 and 7 per cent.

Calcium carbonate is used as an industrial filler and extender in the paints, plastics and paper industries. English China Clays is a world leader

in the production of kaolin, used primarily in paper making, and has growing calcium carbonate interests in Europe and America.

With the benefit of this acquisition, ECC will become the fourth largest producer of calcium carbonate in the United States after Pfizer, Georgia Marble and Omya. These four enjoy a share of more than 50 per cent of the \$5.5 million tonne market. Production stands at 3.5 million tonnes.

Only a fifth of ECC's US calcium carbonate output is sold to the paper industry, but the group hopes to use its processing expertise to increase this proportion. Other large customers are the paint, rubber and plastics industries. The businesses being ac-

quired had sales of \$26.8 million in the year to end-December 1987. Before allocating central overheads, profits were \$6.2 million.

The Cyprus processing plant in Sylacauga, Alabama, is adjacent to one of ECC's existing operations. Mr Robert Carlton-Porter, the group finance director, explained there were considerable cost savings and synergies to be achieved by integrating and rationalizing the operations.

The estimated fair value of the assets being acquired, taking into account the enhancement effect for the group's existing mineral reserves, is \$70 million.

Group borrowings, including the convertible, are expected to rise from 12 per cent

to 33 per cent of shareholders' funds. This rise includes the purchase of the US aggregates business, Shiely, in January and several smaller buys.

Nearly 80 per cent of ECC's profits are earned in Britain, with most of the balance coming from America. Group profits before tax in 1986-87 were £12.1 million, up from £9.4 million the previous year.

Results for the half year to end-March are expected on Thursday. ECC's chairman, Sir Alan Dalton, said order books were healthy, cash flow was strong and, barring unforeseen circumstances, the group was on course for another excellent year. ECC's shares fell 4p to 448p yesterday.

## 'Crucial test' on tender policies

By Colin Narbrough

Lord Cockfield, the vice-president of the European Economic Community Commission, yesterday gave a warning to the Government not to block moves to open up public purchasing to EEC competition.

The former Tory trade minister told a London conference on procurement policy that letting foreign firms compete fairly for official business would be a "crucial test" of EEC governments' determination to make the single European market a reality.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, recently signalled that Britain expects open public purchasing in the EEC only to be achieved with difficulty and does not see it all in place in 1992.

Lord Cockfield said while public purchasing was worth about 15 per cent of the EEC's gross domestic product, it accounted for only 1 per cent of cross-border trade.

He underlined that the Commission is seeking to stress "commercial judgement" and protect the purchaser from national and political pressures.

Lord Cockfield said the law on publicising tenders had to be extended to transport, energy, water and other currently excluded areas.

Brussels also wants the rules to cover private companies where they control a unique network, such as telephones, and a system for firms to obtain redress in national courts.

Mr Brian Hopson of the Department of Trade and Industry, said Britain had doubts about subjecting privatised industries to EEC rules on purchasing, and the EEC's right to use the national courts to ensure compliance.

Proposals for suspending contracts pending investigation into possible breaches of the rules is also seen as a considerable difficulty, as is punitive court awards for aggrieved companies.

Later yesterday, Lord Cockfield predicted that Britain may be heading for an EEC showdown over company law and workers' rights. He said the Commission would shortly publish a formal document for the foundation of a community-wide agreement.

He noted that while Denmark and Germany saw workers' rights as integral to any concept of "company", others, like Britain, regarded such rights as separate from company law.

## GUS needs to discover a new crown prince

So far, the City's thoughts on the Harris Queensway affair are twofold. First, there is frank disbelief that, at a time of booming consumer spending, a substantial public company with access to the best advice money can buy could contrive to produce such a disaster.

Secondly, there has been a tacit assumption, not to say a strong feeling, that one thing stands firmly between Sir Philip Harris and a hostile takeover bid — the support of its 23 per cent shareholder, the Great Universal Stores group.

Of the former observation there is little more to be said, except that the harder one looks for unavoidable external forces pushing the group into a trading disaster, the less one finds. Indeed it becomes clearer that there is nothing much to be found. Results from other retailers may be less buoyant at present than last year, but the sector is still in rude health.

More interesting by far is the role of GUS. Less than two years ago, the mail order giant was not quite promoting suggestions that Sir Philip had become the crown prince to its founding father, Sir Isaac Wolfson. But it was not exactly hounding those who dared whisper the thought either. Sir Philip's entrepreneurial flair was praised by Sir Isaac's closest colleagues as a quality that had somehow become in short supply at the high street operations of the GUS juggernaut. But now, after a lengthy spell of miserable profitability, poor share

price performance, and the inevitable loss of confidence in the City, such perceptions are dramatically changed.

Frankly, GUS would face a huge credibility problem, at least among its leading institutional shareholders and probably a wider audience besides, if it still fostered the impression that Sir Philip was being considered as a candidate for a closer long-term partnership, or worse, as a potential director of the management's strategy.

Over the years the house that Sir Isaac built has won its reputation the hard way — by grinding out consistent growth year after year despite a background of rapid changes of taste by its customers and strategy by its competitors. It would be reasonable to assume in the traditional absence of comment from GUS that the honeymoon was over.

The 23 per cent share stake in Harris Queensway should no longer be seen as a permanent fixture in the GUS balance sheet. Neither GUS nor Sir Philip was specific at the time the shares changed hands in exchange for control of 525 GUS outlets. Later, GUS spelled out the details in its accounts. The book value of the assets swapped for Harris Queensway shares equated to 83p per share, even though the market price on the day the transaction was struck was 268p.

On that basis, GUS is still sitting on a handsome profit with Harris Queensway standing at only 160p. The temptation to secure those profits by selling to a bidder might soon become irresistible.

## Sterling dilemma returns

The dilemma facing the Government's interest rate and exchange rate policy has again been posed starkly. A report by David Morrison of Goldman Sachs saying that the pound could rise further against the mark without damaging industry sent sterling shooting up to close nearly 3 pennings higher than before the weekend at DM3.1606. Money markets responded by clipping 1/8 per cent off interest rates and abandoning talk of an imminent rise in base rates.

As this was happening the Department of Trade and Industry released its latest monthly estimates of consumer credit showing the biggest growth in the amount of credit outstanding since the series began. Revised figures for the volume of retail sales in March reversed the preliminary estimate of a drop on the February level turning it into a small rise. And for good measure manufacturers' input prices, despite the strength of sterling, showed the steepest rise for eight months in April while output prices accelerated slightly to a year-on-year inflation rate of 4.2 per cent.

These are hardly the conditions which one would choose for a cut in interest rates. On the contrary there are strong arguments for a rise in order to deter the rapid growth in bank lending and forestall the risk of renewed inflation. But while the pound is as popular as at present the Chancellor's policy of exchange rate stability dictates otherwise.

The dilemma is one which will presumably resolve itself eventually. Inflation in Britain is still running at about 4 per cent with little sign of further progress in bringing it down. In West Germany it is below 1 per cent. Over a period, as the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, has remarked, a link with mark should prove a good counter-inflationary discipline, and even Mr Morrison expects a decline in the pound back towards DM3 over the medium-term as West Germany moves to tighten its monetary policy and Britain's balance of payments deteriorates. This part of his analysis seemed to have been ignored yesterday.

In the meantime, however, there seems likely to be a good deal of volatility in foreign exchange markets as the authorities juggle with the best combination of counter-inflationary firmness in either interest rates or the exchange rate. Running a counter-inflation policy based on the exchange rate seems to need just as much ability to fly by the seat of the pants as running one based on growth in the money supply.



Attracting profits: Russell Smith at the London Dungeon (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

## Kunick leaps 34% to £1.88m

By Martin Walker

Kunick, the leisure group whose interests range from old-age homes to the London Dungeon, saw pretax profits rise 34 per cent to £1.88 million in the six months to end-March. During this period it had its USM debut.

Mr Russell Smith, the chairman, said the group had been restructuring since his arrival as chief executive early last year, with about 80 per cent of profits coming from the private interests he had reversed into it.

The cash-producing tourism and amusement machine businesses are being used to fund heavy investment in the

more capital-intensive Goldborough division, which is involved in care services for the elderly.

This should account for 50 per cent of group profits within the next two years, Mr Smith said. It had already bought three nursing homes since it was acquired by Kunick last June. Since then the profit rate from the division had tripled.

The group's visitor attractions comprise the London and York Dungeons. Plans to open a third in Paris have been shelved temporarily, said Mr Smith. Improved marketing and security and management changes had boosted

turnover by 25 per cent over the previous year, when the London site was hit by extensive building work in the area as well as by possible fraud, still the subject of police investigation.

Next month London Dungeon visitors will be able to relive the Plague and Great Fire, while York will be celebrating the exploits of one of its most illustrious sons, Guy Fawkes.

The amusement machines side was boosted by the success of its new Music Master compact disc jukebox, which showed a 360 per cent profit improvement on existing models.

"We've taken what was a very marginal sort of product and turned it into a very profitable one, with a high rate of return," Mr Smith added.

In France, the amusement machine division captured some 30 per cent of the market.

A rough operating profits breakdown for the half year shows about 11 per cent coming from the two Dungeons and 17 per cent from care for the elderly. British amusement machines contributed about half, with the balance from the French operation.

An interim dividend of 0.4p is to be paid, up from 0.35p last time.

## First market for rare earth metals

By Robert Matthews

Technology Correspondent  
The Industrial Metals Exchange yesterday opened the first market in the so-called rare earth metals, the compounds at the centre of the superconductor revolution now under way in laboratories worldwide.

Superconductor materials based on rare earths, such as yttrium and lanthanum, are likely to create a host of new electronic equipment, including very small high-speed

computers, through their abilities to lose all electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen.

The creation of a market in the rare earths will enable investors and companies wanting to exploit the potential of superconductivity to obtain the best buying and selling prices for the metals.

"Through the Industrial Metals Exchange we are able to offer researchers, dealers and investors the first open market in the materials on

which the superconductivity revolution will depend," said Mr Sean Adam, finance director of the Industrial Metals Group, which operates the exchange.

The rare earths portfolio will be available through the Reuters Alert system to dealers and investors on the 250,000 electronic terminals that make up the worldwide exchange.

Mr Adam said yesterday that demand for the rare earths has soared since the

discovery that they could produce superconductivity at relatively high temperatures. "In the past year demand for the research metals has gone up tenfold or more," he said.

He said that it was now clear that demand would soon considerably outstrip supply. Although there are substantial untapped reserves of rare earths, new mines are coming on stream very slowly, said Mr Adam, and the situation was likely to remain the same for the next three to five years.

## County's spring floodgates

The eight or so individuals expected to follow legendary US market-maker Brian Winterlood from County NatWest to his new venture, Winterlood Securities, is, I hear, a gross under-estimate. As of yesterday no fewer than 15 County employees had, I can reveal, handed in their notice, including all the key US market-makers and Winterlood's erstwhile secretary, Mrs Una Port. Others — from a variety of firms — have been pestering Winterlood for jobs. "Some of them have been quite important names," he says. County paid £1.8 million for his previous firm, Bisgood Bishop, and there is now thought to be only one original director left. His new £5 million outfit will trade from Knollys House, Mark Lane, and will, initially, have a staff of 30. In spite of plans to begin business in August, Winterlood told me that if British Telecom, the Stock Exchange and Topic can get everything in order, the launch date will be brought forward. Also behind the establishment of the business is David Codd, Bisgood's former finance director. "David and I will have 15 per cent — Union Discount has the rest — but we will be giving some of that out to key employees," Winterlood says. "We want them to feel that they are working for themselves and we will be offering clients a personal service — which, amongst other things, means not pulling the plug on them in the event of another crash."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Under the bonnet

John Chien, chief executive of County NatWest WoodMac Securities and honest Scot, was spotted last week in King's Road, Chelsea, with two policemen peering under the bonnet of his flashy BMW car, helping them with their inquiries — apparently intended to trace a number of

cars stolen from that up-market vicinity — has issued a reply. "Surely," he writes indignantly, "the moral of the story is that no Englishman, not even a policeman, should look under a Scotsman's bonnet, for fear he suffers a breakdown. Kind regards, honest John."

### Be prepared

The fire which destroyed four floors of the 62-storey First Interstate Bank building, in Los Angeles last week, took place on the eve of a presentation ceremony at which the local Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness had planned to present the bank

with an award. The award ceremony, intended to highlight the bank's new disaster response plan — designed to deal with earthquakes and fires — went ahead on schedule but, perhaps not surprisingly, no one from the bank turned up to receive it.

### Whisky Mac

After 17 years as a brewing sector analyst, Victor MacColl, the human dynamo at the heart of Kleinwort Greaveson's research division, still has a thing or two to learn. Complaining to his colleague John Spicer yesterday that the optic featured on the front of their latest monthly drinks review was empty, Spicer corrected him saying, "Don't be silly, it's a green bottle — it's full of gin." But MacColl's ignorance can, I'm sure, be explained by the fact that, like all good Scots, he prefers whisky.

● Question: How do you make a small fortune on the stock market? Answer: Start off with a large one.

## Currency casualty

Ever witty, Alastair Ross Goobey, international investment strategist at the stockbroker James Capel — and son of legendary Imperial Tobacco fund manager George Ross Goobey, now retired — relays a heart-rending tale about the effect of short-term currency fluctuations in his latest circular to clients. While such fluctuations can cause difficulties for investors, these are nothing, he says, compared with the problems suffered by one of his colleagues. "His inamorata is a French lady, who was to celebrate her fortieth birthday at a party in Paris," Ross Goobey writes. "Unfortunately my friend was unable to attend, but arranged with Interflora to send 40 red roses with the message 'One for each of your wonderful years.' Unfortunately, the pound had a sudden run-up and the French florist found it possible to deliver 45 roses for the same sterling cost... End of beautiful friendship."

### Countermove

Marks and Spencer has, I hear, put a stop to an unintentional service it was offering in the financial arena. Cunning customers caught short of ready cash were buying M&S clothes on their charge cards, then going to the refund counter for reimbursement in cash, claiming the clothes did not fit. But after the clamped-down, receipts will now show which bills have been charged to cards, with account credits then replacing the cash handouts.

Carol Leonard

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## Merchants group in Ir£11.2m share offer

By Colin Campbell  
Merchants Warehouse, the Irish-based group in which Mr Larry Goodman took a controlling interest late last year, has unveiled its plans for a revamp.

The restructure plans include the raising of fresh cash and a series of takeovers.

The group is seeking Ir£11.2 million (£9.5 million) through a share offer on the basis of 1.49 new shares for each one held. It yesterday outlined various takeovers costing Ir£30.1 million.

The group is to change its name to Food Industries, and is forecasting pretax profits of Ir£4.2 million in 1988.

A final dividend of 4p, making 4.9p a share for the year, is being paid.

The shares were suspended at 200p in January, and will remain suspended until the latest developments are formally approved by shareholders, the group said.

The acquisitions include Drummonds & Dolans, incorporating Minch Norton, and Talmadge, comprising principally the assets of Baileboro Co-op.

The enlarged group would have three distinct operating subsidiaries: representing dairy, grain-processing and cold storage.

It is estimated to have a turnover of Ir£88 million and net assets of Ir£28.9 million.

"We intend that the enlarged group will become one of Ireland's leading agri-food businesses, and that the directors intend to increase its size both by internal growth and by the acquisition of complementary businesses," says the board.

The new shares have been conditionally placed, with institutions and other investors at 125p each, with clawback provisions.

The new acquisitions costing Ir£30.1 million are being made from Goodman International on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 9.5.

Goodman will receive 21.7 million new shares in Merchants. Goodman currently holds 66 per cent of Merchants, and will build up its stake to 70 per cent in the enlarged group.

Merchants is also to sell for Ir£1 million its 21.5 per cent stake in Tara Meats, Star Meats and Tara Meats (Kilbegan).

## Hunting rides in with £19m deal and record profits

By Colin Campbell

Hunting Associated Industries topped record results for 1987 with news of a £19.2 million deal to buy Lynwood Scientific Developments, a privately-owned computer display terminals group.

Lynwood, which makes equipment for sophisticated electronic systems to Ministry of Defence and other Nato government requirements, will further increase Hunting's substantial technology base and give it a foundation for establishing a large electronics business.

In the year to end-June, Lynwood reported a turnover of £15.3 million and pretax profits of £1.2 million. It benefited significantly from one large order from Honeywell relating to a contract for the Department of Health and Social Security.

Lynwood's order book now stands at £8.9 million.

Mr Clive Hunting, the Hunting chairman, says there will be an initial £5.2 million cash payment for Lynwood, with three further amounts up to a maximum £14 million, depending on profits in the three years to end-1990.

Lynwood will operate as a separate subsidiary of Hunting Electronics.

Hunting Associated Industries yesterday announced profits of £18.13 million for



Clive Hunting with a winged horn, the company's symbol (Photograph: James Morgan)

the year to end-December, against £11.8 million last time, on a turnover of £338.9 million compared with £332 million in 1986.

"Two years ago I said I believed the prospects for continuing growth in 1986 were good and a year later I

said I was glad to be able to say the same for 1987.

"I now repeat my belief in respect of 1988 that this continuity will be maintained," says Mr Hunting.

"We have a strong defence production order book with good export potential, while other activities should con-

solidate or improve their 1987 performance," he added.

A final dividend of 5p is recommended, making 9p (7.2p) for the year. Hunting proposes a one-for-four scrip issue. The shares yesterday rose by 30p to 443p, after touching 448p.

Tempos, page 26

## MIM raises holding in German metals firm

Frankfurt (Reuters) — MIM Holdings, the Australian mining group, is gradually raising its direct stake in Metallgesellschaft, the West German metals company, from 2.7 per cent to 5 per cent, Sir Bruce Watson, MIM's chairman and chief executive, said.

Sir Bruce, visiting Frankfurt for the listing of MIM's shares on the Frankfurt exchange, said MIM recently began buying Metallgesellschaft shares again on the open market.

"It has been a very good relationship. We have been buying from time to time as we have seen the opportunity.

We have 2.7 per cent and we could go up to 5 per cent," he said.

Sir Bruce, who was elected to Metallgesellschaft's supervisory board this year, said the speed of the share purchases depended partly on how the share price reacts.

MIM bought a small stake in Metallgesellschaft in 1986 and soon afterwards Australian Mutual Provident Society, the insurance group which has a minor stake in MIM, took 5 per cent of Metallgesellschaft, which in turn holds a 3.7 per cent stake in MIM.

"We have no declared policy on when or how we will buy, but we are aware that Metallgesellschaft would welcome an increase in our shareholding," Sir Bruce said.

## Ashton's offer values Adex at Aus\$13.4m

Melbourne (Reuters) — Ashton Mining, the Australian diamond producer, a partner in the Argyle joint venture, has said it will bid for the 75 per cent it does not already own in Australian Diamond Exploration (Adex), a company managed by Ashton.

Ashton said it will offer 35 Australian cents a share for each 50 cent Adex share paid to 35 cents, and 25 cents for each share paid to 25 cents, valuing Adex at Aus\$13.4 million (£5.5 million).

Ashton's bid for Adex comes after a paper offer for Adex shares by Vam, a gold producer, of one fully paid 50 cent Vam share for Adex 35 cent shares, and two Vam

shares for every three 25 cent Adex shares. Vam last traded at 30 cents.

The price of uncut diamonds from Australia's Argyle diamond mine, north-western Australia, is being increased by an average of just above 10 per cent. This follows the recent 13.5 per cent increase in the price of rough diamonds marketed by the De Beers marketing arm, the Central Selling Organization.

Mr David Karpin, managing director of Argyle Diamonds Sales, says the price increase applies to gem and near gem diamonds.

Argyle produced 30.3 million carats of diamonds from its mine last year.

## Clothing output in Ulster 'to rise 50%'

By Robert Rodwell

Northern Ireland's large clothing industry, employing more than 16,000 people — 17 per cent of Ulster's manufacturing workforce — can expect to increase output by 50 per cent over the next five years and take on another 2,500 employees.

This is the conclusion of a one-year study by an industry "task force" funded by the NI Industrial Development Board. The report was completed by Kurt Salmon Associates, an international clothing consultancy.

The industry's sales totalled £337 million last year, and a turnover of £500 million, at present prices, is a realistic prospect for 1992, the report says. To achieve the expansion about £25 million will need to be invested to break into new market sectors; and the same amount again to improve productivity. This compares with about £60 million that Ulster's clothing companies have invested in the past three years. In this period output has grown by 30 per cent while the total number of employees has risen by 1,000.

The industry, comprising 120 companies, of which only 73 have more than 50 employees, is particularly strong in shirts, lingerie and hosiery where it is among the international leaders. But it exports only about 15 per cent of its output, mainly to leading British retailers. But the growth of "segmented" marketing, represented by such specialist retailing chains as Next and Principles, has led to greater demand for flexibility and the ability to handle short production runs to meet the demands of fickle fashion — a process to which the industry in general has adapted well.

The release of the report yesterday coincided with an announcement by Warraco, a leading US lingerie and leisure clothing group, that it planned to increase employment at its two lingerie factories at Keady, County Armagh, and Drogheda, County Down.

Mrs Linda Wachner, the former Max Factor cosmetics chief who took over Warraco two years ago, said the factory at Keady would become the headquarters of a new European division. The two Ulster factories, with a staff of 400, would be recruiting another 125 people.

## Deal for GPG shares denied by Equiticorp

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

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Samuel Montagu says it was careful to point out to Equiticorp at the time of the bid that under British rules, shareholders who sell early at a lower price are not entitled to a top-up from the bidder later on. "We are satisfied we did everything to prevent them breaking the takeover

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He left open the possibility that the company might sell its 61 per cent stake in the merchant bank, which is due to be floated off from the rest of GPG in the next few days.

"We have always said we never close the door to a decent offer. We are sellers of everything if the price is right," Mr Adams said.

No final dividend is being paid.

Conditions in the home brewing industry remained

very difficult last year, Mr Acton said, with turnover falling from £6.98 million to £3.7 million and the profits improvement coming from the elimination of overheads.

The company had cash balances of about £1.3 million and was poised for expansion, he added.

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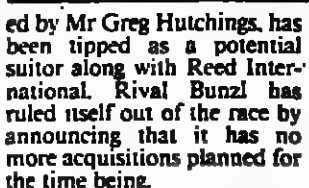
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## Dow edges lower in early trading

Tomkins, the fast growing industrial conglomerate head-



RECENT	
<b>EQUITIES</b>	
Acre Oil	190 -9
Brit. Pet. P/B	71 -1 1/2

Holders Tech (140p)	148
Johnston (122p)	140
Kitty Little (90p)	113 -2
LGW	83
Marc Manf New	73 -3
Microlec	123
Moorefield Est	123
Morris Ashby (90p)	91
P&P (175p)	180 -1
Pennant	20 +1
Pennine Optical	47

<b>ISSUES</b>	
Porvair (78p)	91 -2
Psion	128 -1
Reliable Props	£17 -1½
Resort Hotels (14p)	18

Scantronic N/P	15 -1
West Trust N/P	40 +2

(Issue price in brackets).

The rise in the shares was also accompanied by vague suggestions that the group has secured control of the *Fidelitv*

would have crashed below 100p on the poor figures if the possibility of a bid had not arisen. The downward potential of the shares is considerable if a bid fails to materialize.

**Goal Petroleum**, the oil independent, rose by 5.5p to 113p amid reports of a significant North Sea oil find. A test well has produced results about three times better than original estimates at a well in which Goal holds a 20 per cent interest and BP the remaining 80 per cent.

**Michael Clark and  
Geoffrey Foster**

**New York (Renter)** — Wall Street stocks were narrowly mixed in early trading yesterday with many investors staying out of the action due to futures-related activity creating sudden moves. Concern about upward pressure on interest rates added to investor caution, brokers said.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.63 to 1,999.83 at one stage, and the transport indicator slipped 6.27 to 836.77.

● **Tokyo** — Share prices fell for the third session in moderate trade on wariness ahead of the quarterly US Treasury

Nikkei average lost 223.47 points to 27,264.30 after shedding 46.62 points in half-day trading on Saturday.

● **Sydney** — A lack of buying support saw the share market drift to a weaker close in all sectors, brokers said. The All-Ordinaries index fell by 12.1 points to 1,410.8 and the All-Industrials indicator closed down 17.3 points at 2,285.3.

● **Hong Kong** — Share prices closed firmer in active trading on selective buying, brokers said. The Hang Seng index ended 12.29 points higher at 2,584.03.

[illegible][illegible]

	1988	1989
Operating profit	\$152.9m	\$175.5m
Financing	\$121.3m	\$115.5m
Change net of Capital Stock	\$5.2m	\$16.5m
Dividend per \$1 Capital Stock	18.5m	\$5.974.5m
Advances	\$1,032.7m	\$858.6m
Capital Resources		

Developing new revenue sources is a key priority in the Group's

The Group's increased flexibility and its corporate staff and enthusiasm signalled even more progress in the year to come. As the Governor states: "The opportunities for profitable expansion of the volume and diversity of all aspects of the Group's business have never appeared more promising."

will be held on Wednesday 25 May 1988 at 3.30 pm in Industriens Hus (House of the Danish Industry) in Copenhagen.

1. Report on the Company's business in the past year.
2. Presentation of the annual accounts for approval, and giving discharge to the Board of Directors and the Board of Management.
3. Proposal for the allocation of the year's result and the rate of dividend.

4. Proposal from the Board of Directors for alteration of the Company's Articles of Association. The essence of the proposal is as follows:

That a number of editorial alterations be made, mainly as a consequence of the Company's shares having been transferred for registration with the Danish Securities Centre, share certificates and coupons in Denmark having been annulled accordingly.

5. Proposal from the Board of Directors for authorisation to the Board to acquire on the Company's behalf up to 10 per cent of the Company's own shares.
6. Election to the Board of Directors.

Article 18 of the Company's Articles of Association stipulates that for the adoption of the proposed resolution under Item 4 of the Agenda not less than three-fourths of the share capital issued shall be represented at the General Meeting, and the adoption shall be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast and of the amount of share capital represented at the Meeting as carrying voting rights. In the event that sufficient share capital is not represented but that the resolution is carried with the majority specified above, the resolution may be finally carried at a new general meeting convened for the purpose, with the above prescribed majority regardless of the amount of share capital represented at the meeting as carrying voting rights.

From Tuesday 17th May 1988 the Agenda and the complete proposals to be submitted to the General Meeting, the Annual Accounts and Group Accounts with the Auditor's Report, and the Annual Report will be open to the inspection of shareholders at the Company's offices in Copenhagen, and in London and Paris. Copies of the same material will also be sent, not later than eight days before the General Meeting, to all shareholders noted in the Company's register of shareholders at the addresses noted in the register.

Admission to the General Meeting requires that card of admission be obtained not later than five days prior to the Meeting from the Company's office in London or Copenhagen on shareholders proving their rights as such, in Denmark by presentation of original statement or share account dated 10th May 1986 from the bank holding the account.

No director is employed with the Company under a contract of service.

## The Board of Directors



# Portfolio

PLUS NEW

## Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page daily. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you fail, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Games rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gold	Share
1	Leopold	Paper, Print, Adv	10	10
2	Baker Harris	Property	10	10
3	Lancaster	Motors, Aircraft	10	10
4	Pacton	Motors, Aircraft	10	10
5	MacKay (High)	Textiles	10	10
6	Roll-Royce (as)	Industrials S-Z	10	10
7	Haynes Publishing	Motors, Aircraft	10	10
8	West Trust	Industrials S-Z	10	10
9	Treasury	Textiles	10	10
10	Bonnes	Paper, Print, Adv	10	10
11	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	10	10
12	Landless	Textiles	10	10
13	Radcliff Colman (as)	Industrials L-R	10	10
14	Claydon (as)	Industrials E-K	10	10
15	Victor	Industrials L-R	10	10
16	Cape Ind	Industrials A-D	10	10
17	Claydon	Property	10	10
18	Transcontinental	Industrials S-Z	10	10
19	Chard Op	Property	10	10
20	Rover	Motors, Aircraft	10	10
21	Beatt Walker	Textiles	10	10
22	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	10	10
23	Dawson	Textiles	10	10
24	Bruton	Property	10	10
25	South Estates	Property	10	10
26	Forma	Industrials L-R	10	10
27	Good Executive	Shoes, Leather	10	10
28	Franks (Thomas)	Industrials E-K	10	10
29	Print Marlowe	Property	10	10
30	Juliana's Ridge	Textiles	10	10
31	Granger	Property	10	10
32	Ryton	Industrials L-R	10	10
33	Esplanet	Industrials E-K	10	10
34	Lucas (as)	Motors, Aircraft	10	10
35	Yorkshire	Textiles	10	10
36	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	10	10
37	Albion Mould	Paper, Print, Adv	10	10
38	Gears Guss	Paper, Print, Adv	10	10
39	Barr & WA 'A'	Textiles	10	10
40	Land Sec (as)	Property	10	10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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## TECHNOLOGY

## The breath-test 'dipstick'

A new type of bio-sensor, which can give instant readouts of alcohol levels in the bloodstream, could make such things as drink-driving tests much simpler. NICK NUTTALL looks at the possibilities

A detection device no bigger than a fountain pen which could revolutionize the way police do drink-drive tests and brewers and spirit manufacturers monitor fermentation and quality control is being developed by scientists at Newcastle University and ICI's Northwich Diagnostic Division amid the tightest commercial security.

Called a bio-sensor, the chemical dipstick can almost instantaneously give an untrained user a digital-watch-style readout of ethanal concentrations in undiluted blood, scrapping the need for expensive, complicated and time-consuming analysis at a specialist laboratory.

The technology invented by three scientists led by Dr Pankaj Vadgama, Newcastle's principal research associate in clinical biochemistry, could also improve the quality of life for people suffering diseases such as diabetes.

It should be able to give

them an accurate test of their blood sugar levels ensuring insulin injections are taken only when necessary and at the best possible time.

Though the concept and basic science of bio-sensing is not new, the scientists appear to be cracking the problem of accuracy which occurs when such devices are used to test for the high concentrations of alcohol or glucose which can occur in blood.

And, though the research and design of the British bio-sensor is being shrouded in secrecy to protect it from predatory competitors, ICI's recently filed European patent application number 216577 gives some idea of how this is being done.

At the heart of any bio-sensor is a permeable membrane which selects the substance to be analysed allowing it to pass inside to an area of enzyme. This chemical catalyst — in the case of alcohol, alcohol oxidase — causes a fast reaction between the ethanal and oxygen



The present system: a superior system on the way?

producing hydrogen peroxide.

This can be picked up by an electrode and the resulting current passed on to a digital display screen.

At low concentrations, the quantities produced neatly match the amounts of alcohol present but at higher concentrations, the relationship falls down.

Some researchers have attempted to tackle the problem by tinkering with the catalysts chemistry or by constructing complex electronics.

Instead, the Newcastle scientists have devised a much sophisticated membrane clever enough to fool the enzyme into believing the outside

concentrations are much lower than they really are.

This latter design feature is the crux of the Newcastle's membrane's success, ensuring the enzyme does not become saturated.

By only permitting, say one per cent of the alcohol present, the method still works and through simple calibration in the sensor can be multiplied by 100 giving the true blood alcohol level reading.

At ICI's diagnostics division, researchers are working out how best to apply the technology but a spokesman said they expected to produce two versions.

One, for continuous mon-

itoring systems such as fermentation processes and another for one off testings having a disposal membrane to protect against infection

"Clearly, if you are out to measure blood-alcohol levels, it is best you do just that. Alcohol in the breath only gives you an indication, it can never be the same," said an ICI official.

"What the judicial system will decide is what an appropriate use of our device remains to be seen. In the early periods, results will probably need confirmation and the individual for his defence would need to continue to have a blind sample analysed."

He admitted that on its initial introduction there might be some resistance to a device that requires police taking a pin prick of blood which is put in contact with the sensor's end.

But he added: "There are a number of precedents for techniques being used like this without medical supervision."

"Many people take capillary blood samples every day of their lives for such things as monitoring their blood glucose."

## Log-jam that will grow worse, but can be cured

PERSPECTIVE

Software production today consumes more than £3 billion worth of resources in Britain. In Europe, the figure is £16 billion and worldwide, a massive £75 billion.

By the year 1995 that may become £192 billion, consuming 24 million man-years of resource annually.

Projections of technical developments over the next decade suggest that we are still at a relatively early stage of the exploitation of the electronic possibilities for improving the power of systems. That capacity will far out-strip our ability to create and develop systems. Some consequences are already evident, and will, in time, become more severe. The first of these is a massive shortage of skilled resource. The efforts currently being made are in no way able to meet the escalation of demand. This will increase the already large hidden backlog with adverse effects on economic performance.

Even more critical however, is the qualitative consequence. We must expect to see a further exaggeration of the existing distortion in favour of fragmented systems. The pressing demand from users will cause a continuing rapid rate of introduction of new systems. The difficulty of integrating these will however cause continuing fragmentation and a lack of consistency and coherence.

If we look at the current expenditure of effort on systems development, we can see very clearly, the bias introduced into the process by the sheer difficulty of the task. If we examine the impact of programming effort, it becomes evident that cost factors will cause us to make the greatest use we can of widely available utilities, moving from them to packaged solutions and only reluctantly to more comprehensively tailored systems, or finally to fully developed bespoke systems which have a high cost of development.

There is a widespread acceptance that the long-term objective is to create enterprise wide systems, but this has proved exceptionally difficult. The prospect of fully integrated management information systems which was held out in the 1970s has proved impossible to achieve.

Because of the extreme difficulties of undertaking comprehensive analysis at this level, we see a massive distortion in favour of the more constrained and specific systems. We need to understand that the log jam with which

we are faced is as much qualitative as it is quantitative. The main thrust of reducing programming cost and time has led, particularly in the 1980s, to the widespread introduction of fourth-generation languages and an array of techniques which enable a degree of flexibility to be maintained without the high cost of bespoke programming.

For many, this appeared to be the ultimate solution. What, however, rapidly became apparent was that programming is only one of the dimensions concerned. The consequence of introducing fourth-generation language is, if anything, to shift the burden of effort and work to the analysis stages. There is a rising perception of what may be achieved with so-called CASE tools, which provide us with computer-aided software engineering methods. The main characteristics of this are the use of computer-aided design, the provision of a map of the data used within an organization and the furnishing of a navigational chart of the processes.

The CAD techniques, though sometimes regarded as cosmetic, are far from that. By providing a screen-based approach to development with heavy use of diagrams, usually mouse driven, they enable an understanding of the data and processes being analysed which can only be achieved by more conventional measures with extreme difficulty. It is not difficult to understand that it would be impossible today to design highly complex products such as an aero engine, without the use of diagrammatic techniques.

We need to understand that the systems that now being created for information purposes are of the same order of complexity and difficulty and require comparable techniques. There can no longer be any doubt as to the practicability of an automated solution within which computer-aided software engineering may be effectively practiced.

In the absence of such developments, our software log jam can only grow worse and increasingly damage our prospects for economic advance. But there can be little doubt that the solutions now lie within our grasp.

● The author is managing director of James Martin Associates UK, which specializes in software tools



David Fairbairn,

above, looks at a development for which demand is out-stripping technical progress

## Software rental boom unlikely

By Matthew May

Software firms now believe they have a good chance of getting a controversial clause in new copyright legislation amended that at the moment would allow computer programs to be let for hire in the same way as video films.

The Copyright, Designs, and Patents Bill is a lengthy document with more than 280 clauses covering intellectual property rights, patents and copyright in all areas. But it is one clause which, as it stands, will give buyers of computer software the right to rent and let programs a year after their release that is causing the industry concern.

After a parliamentary debate at the end of last month, where the Bill was given an unopposed second reading, it moves to committee where each clause will be examined and any changes included. In the debate the Trade and Industry minister, Kenneth Clarke, said the Government may not have got the balance quite right over software.

Unlike the viewing of most video films, customers for computer programs are

likely to want to use them repeatedly and the fear is that enforced rental could become a cheap method for the renters to take unofficial copies in the same way as home-taping produces millions of unofficial copies of bestselling record albums.

Though software can be protected to make copying difficult, it is becoming increasingly unfashionable because of the problems it can cause genuine customers. Software sold for personal computers often has so-called "shrinkwrap agreements" with them, which are included in the packaging of the products and include warnings of legal action should the buyer be caught copying or renting out the program to others.

Some however argue that these "agreements" have never been really tested in court and might not be upheld. The copyright bill will give protection but only for a year.

The software producers say that length of time is not enough to recoup development costs. Bob Hay, president of the

Federation Against Software Theft, has described the clause as a pirates' paradise.

He estimates that it could cost the industry £50 million a year. Critics of the clause say that the Government has failed to realise the crucial differences between software and other areas such as video films.

The fear is that piracy could take off like it has in Italy where there is no specific law to prohibit copying. Given the number of PCs there, the amount of software sold is between one third and a half the quantity that would be expected in countries with tougher laws.

While anyone wanting to rent out software would have to pay software firms a royalty, there are provisions in the Bill for a right of appeal if a company is seen as pitching its licensing fees at such a high level as deliberately to prevent rental. Software firms would like to see the clause scrapped completely in relation to computer programs. The likely compromise is that software will be protected for several years, not the planned 12 months.

## EVENTS

■ Life Science Technologies, Tuesday until Thursday, Wembley, London, (01-868 4466)

■ Computers in Manufacturing, Tuesday until Thursday, Olympia, London (0372-372842)

■ Americas Telecom 88, May 16-21, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (010 41 22 99 51 11)

■ Technology in Tourism and Leisure, May 17-19, Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

■ Eurotelecom, May 17-20, Palacio de Congresos, Madrid (01034 1233 40 09)

■ Copiers 88, May 24-26, Business Design Centre, London (01-940 6065)

■ Amstrad Computer Show, May 26-28, Great Hall, Alexandra Park, London (0625-878888)

■ Computer Recruitment Roadshow, June 6-7, Tower Theatre, London (0371-810415)

Each department has its own problems. And thus the problem. Because personal computers are just that. By a computer designed for doing ideas in common.

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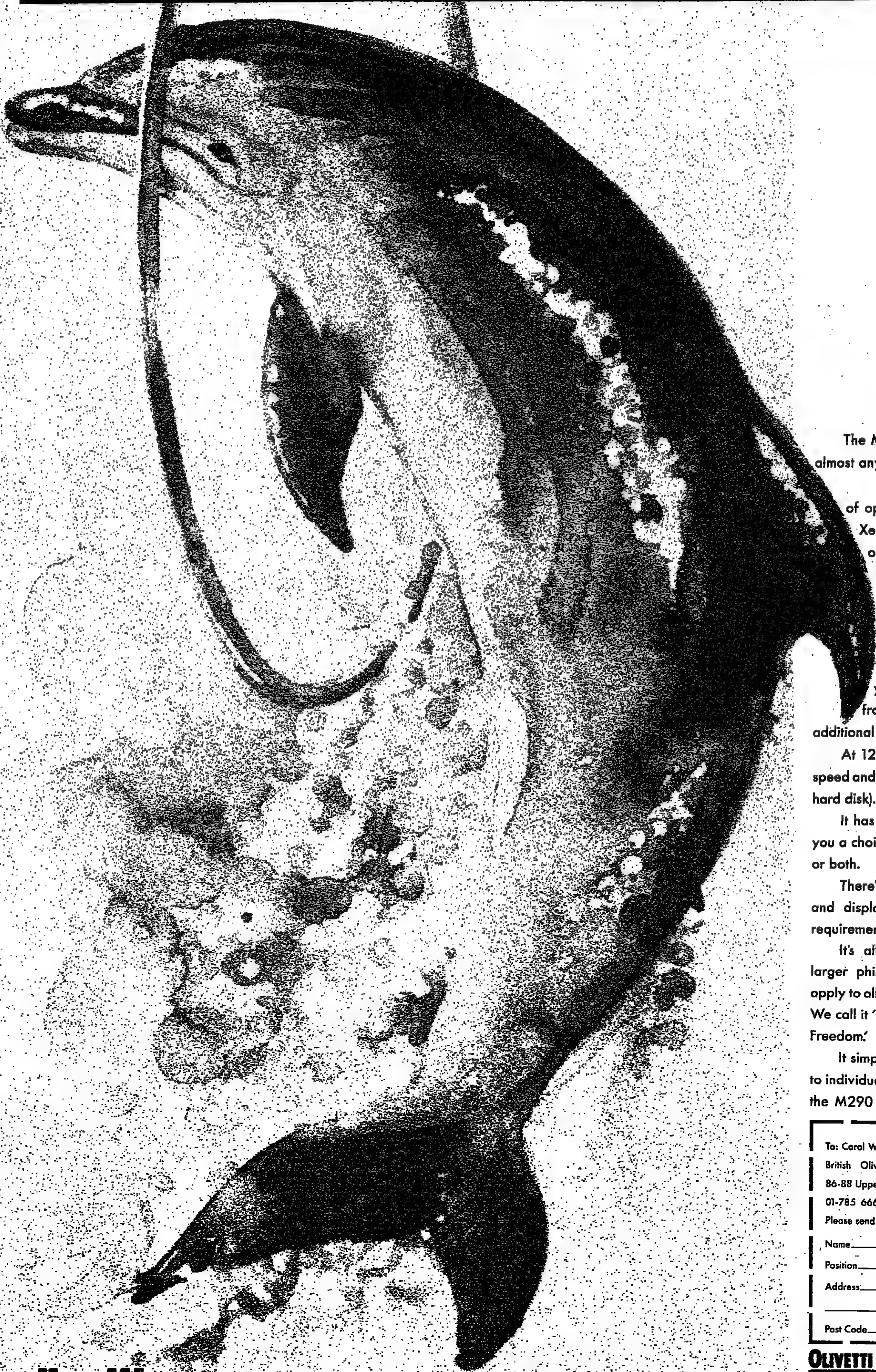
**THEY'VE GOT GREAT IDEAS, BUT THEY HAVEN'T THE INTELLIGENCE TO SHARE THEM.**

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The M290 is so talented it can do almost anything you ask it to.

It's trained to run a variety of operating systems - MS-DOS<sup>®</sup>, Xenix<sup>®</sup> - making it the ideal option for those who might want to upgrade to multi-user in the future; and even MS-OS/2<sup>®</sup>.

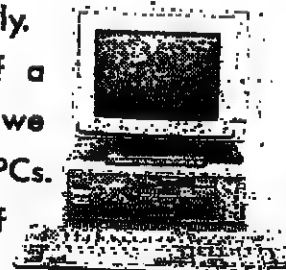
In fact, with a surprising 2MB of RAM available, you can run MS-OS/2 right from the word go, with no additional expansion cards.

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There's even a range of monitors and display controllers, to suit your requirements exactly.

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## TECHNOLOGY

# Racing take-off for £5,000 prize

This is the third week of *The Times*/Digital Schneider competition taking aviation as its theme and offering the opportunity of winning holidays valued at £5,000.

The prizes are three holiday vouchers for £1,000 and one prize of £2,000 that can be used to take the winners to a destination of their choice.

The winner of the top prize will be selected from the four weekly winners during the week of the Digital Schneider Trophy race which takes place on Bank Holiday Monday May 30.

This year's event marks the 75th anniversary of the first Schneider Trophy event, held in 1913. So far the entries include a Russian-built Yak fighter and a Second World War Kittyhawk.

This week, and next, we continue to publish random entries from a spotter's log, as clues to the four questions we shall be posing.

## WHAT YOU DO:

Research the answers to each of the questions, and add your results together to form a numerical solution. For example, if you think the answer to Question 3 is 15 then add this number to the total to give your solution.

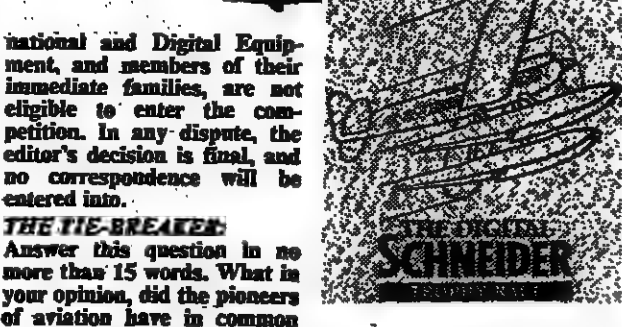
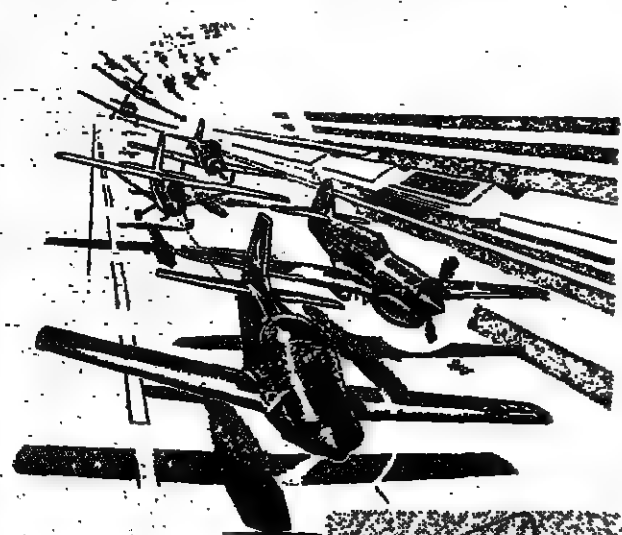
You must also complete the tie-breaking sentence - see below.

On Sunday, between 8am and 7pm, call 021 400 1314, which is *The Times*/Digital Schneider hotline.

You will be asked for the following information when you make your call: (1) The numerical solution, (2) the tie-breaking sentence, (3) your name and day-time telephone number.

Please have all this to hand when you make your call, and deliver it in the above order to enable the entry to be processed accurately and speedily.

Entries will only be accepted during the stated hours. Employees of *The Times* and



Added together these answers gave a total numerical solution of 7739. The winner is Jessa Alexander of Hampstead, London.



## First winner

The winner of our first week competition was Brian Maitland, a civil servant who lives in Bath and works for the Ministry of Defence.

Aviation is his big interest; not only does he attend many air shows, but he writes articles on aviation history for the specialist press.

His winning tie-breaking sentence was: *A successful beach test of a turbo jet by Whittle - the seed of all modern aviation.*

# Scanners can cut NHS costs

By Brian Collett

The National Health Service could actually economize by buying the newest high-technology scanners for its hospitals, even though the machines can cost more than £1 million a time.

This is the conclusion of a study by Professor George du Boulay at London's National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, regarded as the leading neurological unit in the world.

Professor du Boulay, who is Professor Emeritus of Neuro-radiology at London University, began his study amid widespread claims that better health care is always dearer to provide.

He says: "The whole point is that everything has not got so much more expensive. I was quite riveted to find that so many things had got so much cheaper."

Specifically, his interim report says: "The introduction of scanners has made diagnosis cheaper, not more expensive."

Professor du Boulay has drawn up a table of 1973 costs, multiplied by four to reflect inflation, for conventional and specialized X-ray examinations for six brain conditions, and a parallel table giving the 1987 costs of equivalent investigations using modern methods, including scanners.

Big savings are achieved by cutting the number of days patients have to stay in hospital for investigations. Professor du Boulay also explains that actual costs are usually at the upper end of the range given for the 1973 investigations but at the lower end for those in 1987.

The updated figures for the 1973 examination of a patient thought to have a cerebral tumour are in the range of £712-£915. The 1987 figures are £120-£915. The patient would have spent two or three days in hospital for the 1973 tests, but today would need no more than two days and might even be dealt with as an outpatient.



Diagnosis made cheaper: The professor's patient goes into a magnetic resonance scanner

One deciding factor in 1973 was an angiogram, a procedure in which a fluid is injected to highlight the blood vessels of the brain and create a better X-ray picture. The patient had to be admitted to hospital for this. Today the use of scanners for an equivalent examination rules out the need for admission.

A patient suspected of having multiple sclerosis in 1973 would have cost between £96

and £1,064 at 1987 prices to investigate, with possibly up to three days in hospital. The present cost is £300 and the patient would not need to be admitted.

One particularly striking reduction is in the cost of investigating dementia, the loss of mental powers that often has a physical cause. The 1973 updated cost is £648-£1,264, with two, three or even four days in hospital.

Today's cost is £120-£300, without a hospital admission.

The daily cost of a hospital bed in use is £200, and Professor du Boulay calculates that a computerized tomography X-ray scanner, costing about £400,000, would pay for itself in a year just by keeping every one of its annual throughput of 2,500 patients out of hospital for one day.

He is now calculating how quickly a magnetic resonance

scanner, which uses a magnet and radio frequency waves to create an image, would cover its £1 million cost by keeping patients out of hospital.

Two other advantages he cites are that both types of scanner offer a better diagnosis and their use is much less unpleasant than some earlier examinations.

For example, scanners have made obsolete the pneumo-encephalogram examination, in which air is introduced into the brain to produce a clearer X-ray picture. This technique caused intense pain for at least 24 hours and necessitated hospital care.

Professor du Boulay is due to look soon at the economics of using scanners for spinal examinations. He expects the savings to be even more dramatic, partly because orthopaedic specialists as well as neurologists use scanners for spinal diagnoses.

Professor du Boulay will package all his findings in a paper for publication in a medical journal to convince the NHS that it needs to invest in more scanners.

His interim report concludes: "The data suggest that every hospital should review the cost-effectiveness of its investigative techniques and that these arguments provide a strong case for expenditure on high-technology equipment."

"The absence of risk and need for anaesthesia in many cases shortens the time required in hospital. This is a large factor in cost-saving, but can only be operative when there is enough equipment to avoid unnecessary waiting."

The report follows a recent visit by the Princess of Wales to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases to open a new radiology department and unveil the hospital's second computerized tomography scanner.

The hospital, of which the Princess is patron, has two scanners of each type and is asking the NHS for a third magnetic resonance imager.

## Attack on quality

Poor quality computer software is costing British businesses more than £500 million a year, according to a Government-sponsored study published last week.

Carried out for the Department of Trade and Industry by Price Waterhouse, the accountants, the study says that many companies developing computer software have failed to recognise the importance of systematically building quality into their products.

Both users and suppliers of the software are suffering, according to the report. It cites low productivity, project overruns, data errors and poor maintainability of software products as the symptoms of the attitude to quality.

The software suppliers themselves are estimated to spend £200 million a year in modifying their development

work on software projects because of the dissatisfaction of their customers.

If software suppliers are to maintain their competitive position, they must invest in methods which specifically introduce quality into their products "even though the short term benefits of this investment might be seen as accruing to the user," say the report's authors.

The pressure to do better must therefore come from the users, they conclude.

Last year, the committee of external advisers to the DTI which recommended that the software quality study be carried out expressed concern over the number of overlapping quality standards for computer software.

The United States is quietly planning to launch what officials say will be the world's most sophisticated search for intelligent life beyond Earth, writes Robert Koehn.

Scientists at NASA plan to use a new super analytical computer to pick up signals from any distant civilization and resolve the age-old question of who, if anyone, shares the universe with earthlings.

In another phase of the 10-year project, they plan to transmit radio signals to every star which can be detected in the universe, in the hope of getting a reply.

What makes the space agency think it can solve this age-old question is the invention of a super analytical computer that can sort data at unprecedented speed.

It is about the size of a big

## Is there anyone there?

filing cabinet. But its working "brain" is an advanced finger-sized computer chip, only eight millimeters square, that equals 34,000 transistors.

Using this analyser performing at the rate of 10 billion operations a second, faster than any supercomputer, NASA plans a comprehensive search of a "quiet" band of the electromagnetic spectrum hoping to pick up signals from any distant civilisation.

The theory is that any intelligent life would also notice this relatively quiet end of the spectrum and beam in on these frequencies.

The plan is to place black boxes - the first one will cost some £6.5 million, the rest about £500,000 each - at key radio astronomy dishes throughout the world.

By 1992, a second multi-channel spectrum analyser able to scan 10 million radio frequencies simultaneously to find signal patterns will be in operation in Puerto Rico.

Lynn Griffiths, NASA program manager for the project, described the 30 members of what NASA officially calls "The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI)" project team of scientists, programmers and analysts as true believers.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

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## TECHNOLOGY

### Artificial intelligence skills may become standard in software

## One way to get smart

By Pat Sweet

Fairly soon programmers may find themselves commonly using artificial intelligence techniques. Until now most expert systems, which seek to encapsulate an expert's knowledge in a set of rules which a computer can interpret, have been confined to research projects.

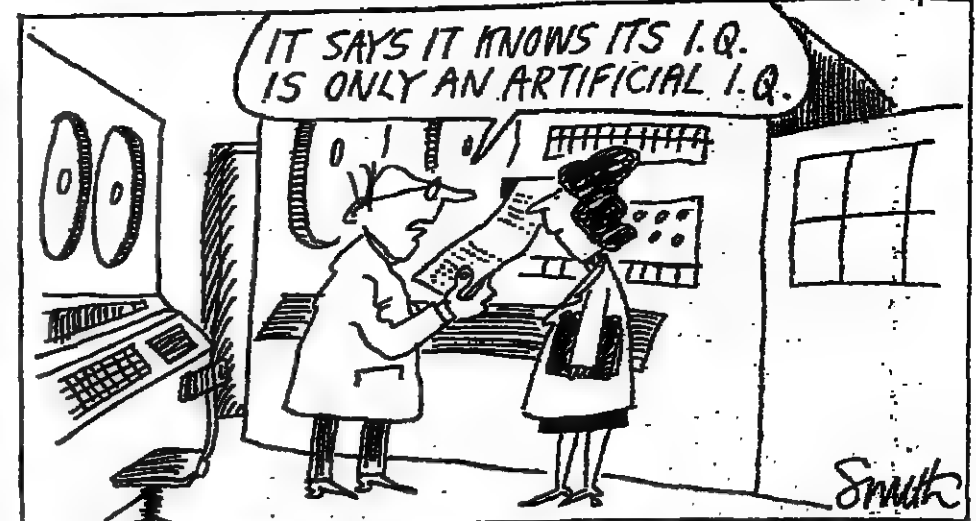
Such commercial applications as have appeared tend to fall into two categories: small systems using standard software "shells", and larger systems requiring specialist hardware and programming languages such as Lisp or Prolog.

But now software companies such as the US-based AI Corp are starting to exploit expert-systems technology as a part of standard software programs which will run on existing hardware and work with existing computer programs.

Programmers with experience of languages like Lisp, which is commonly used for expert systems, are a scarce commodity and companies are reluctant to retrain programming staff in esoteric languages, said Phyllis Swersky, AI Corp's executive vice-president.

AI Corp was founded in 1975 to develop artificial-intelligence software to run on IBM mainframes. Its most successful offering so far has been Intellect, a natural language system designed to help business people access information using ordinary English.

About 500 sites worldwide



use Intellect and European customers include British Airways, British Gas, the Shell Group, Midland Bank and Tesco Stores.

Now the company is developing KBMS (Knowledge Based Management System), a program designed to capture essential skills from business managers.

#### Protection against loss of expertise when staff leave

AI Corp is working on the product in collaboration with four American corporations.

Mrs Swersky believes that by using expert systems technology it is possible to spread specialist business knowledge

more widely and protect companies against a loss of expertise if key staff leave or retire.

It is also claimed to make decision making more consistent, since the computer does not panic or forget, while the programs themselves are easier to maintain.

One of the insurance companies in the consortium, for instance, is developing a computer program to tackle its underwriting procedures so that it standardizes on the best level of expertise possible.

The computer can check a proposal against all the rules in seconds and implement a search of relevant databases if necessary, for example looking up past traffic violations if a motor-insurance policy is under consideration.

Mrs Swersky said: "I believe

it will soon be as natural for programmers to know about expert systems programming as databases. Take a pricing module for a company with a lot of products and complex pricing discounts. To write that in Cobol is a tough task and if you do write it and the policy then changes, the software can't be maintained with any flexibility."

In an expert systems program, programmers would need simply to change a few of the rules.

Mrs Swersky estimates that there are about 40,000 potential customers worldwide. The company has bought out its original UK distributor and set up a new subsidiary, in Bracknell, which is recruiting staff, including knowledge-based systems engineers.

#### JOBSCENE

## Backroom boys can clear the jams

By Caroline Bernum

Electronic point of sale systems (epos), have made the queues in supermarkets move faster but have also created a lot of backroom jobs as the mass of sales data needs to be processed into useful management information.

Knowledge of the retail business seems to be one of the most useful qualifications for moving into this area.

Bejam, for example, is training shop managers to work on its epos systems. The company is only just starting to install it in 265 freezer food stores. Fifteen are due to be operating by July. Epos is already in all the 52 Victor Value stores, also owned by Bejam.

The company's ambitious plans have meant a growth in the information services department from three to 75 people in just 18 months and it is still expanding.

Bejam is building up a large database of management information on its central IBM computer, which is fed by the data on the ICL epos network. It is looking for about 10 people across the range of business, analysis and operations areas.

Knowledge of the retail business is one of the most important things that Dennis Keys, Bejam's director of information services, looks for in his recruits.

He said: "We can always train people in data processing skills. But the skills needed for implementing the epos systems are closely related to the user's needs."

"Our analyst programmers are just programmers, but for project managers, a background in the retail business is important."

"We steer away from pure programmers because we use fourth-generation languages which do away with the requirement for pure Cobol programmers, and generate code for us."

He is looking for analysts/programmers who need a two-year background in programming, preferably retail, and a



Dennis Keys: "Use fourth-generation languages"

knowledge of the analytical side of the business. They are paid up to £22,000, although more can be paid for exceptional candidates.

Epos systems have affected the work of management at all levels throughout the company, as information gleaned from the data it provides is used for stock control, sales and marketing data.

If there are epos check-outs in a store, there is a back office micro, analysing the data on site. This can analyse customer flow by the half-hour, so calculating the staff required in the shop.

Staff scheduling is now done instantly in the shop, whereas it once took months. "The computer can predict the likely times that customers come in, and how long they take for different types of transactions."

At headquarters, there is now the ability to analyse immediately the price sensitivity of various products.

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## FINANCIAL

Continued from page 37

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We have vacancies for both newly qualified and experienced solicitors to join this rapidly expanding part of our practice.

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In the field of planning law, our clients include developers, landowners, housebuilders, major retailers and local authorities. Our experience has been developed by acting for both promoters and opponents of major schemes, regional shopping centres, superstores, motorways, new towns and airports. We handle substantial planning appeals and advise on the whole range of planning, listed buildings and enforcement issues.

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Following the recent expansion of our planning/rating team, we are now seeking assistants from newly to two years qualified to join this department. Whilst specific experience in this area of the law will be an advantage, equally important is a dynamic and commercial approach to the work.

If you are interested and would like to apply, or to have more information, please write to, or telephone:  
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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 1 June 1988) please contact David Hurst, Chief Administration Officer, Crown Prosecution Service, The McLaren Building, Dale End, Birmingham B4 7NR.  
Tel: 021-233 3133.  
Please quote ref: G/7942.

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## LAW COMMISSIONER

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment as a Law Commissioner.

The Law Commission was set up by the Law Commissioners Act 1965 to keep the law under review with a view to its modernisation, simplification and systematic reform. The Commission receives and considers proposals for changes to the law from lawyers, judges, law reform bodies, and the public. It gives advice and information to government departments concerned with reform of particular areas of the law and undertakes comparative law studies. The Commission has its offices in London (at the address below) and is assisted by legal and supporting staff.

The Law Commission consists of a Chairman and four other Commissioners appointed by the Lord Chancellor for a fixed term of up to five years. The Chairman is a High Court Judge. The other Commissioners are lawyers with experience in the fields of criminal and general common law.

There will be a vacancy for a Commissioner at the beginning of 1989. The post is full-time and will be given to a barrister with special experience and interest in the fields of criminal and general common law.

The salary of a Law Commissioner will be £45,000 per annum with effect from 1 October 1988 increasing to £48,000 after one year's service. The post is pensionable.

The successful candidate will be a lawyer of recognised standing, experience and ability who can make a significant contribution to the reform and development of the law.

Those wishing to apply, or to suggest the name of a suitable candidate for consideration, are invited to contact Mr Michael Collins, the Secretary, Law Commission, Chapter House, 77/78 John Street, Tinsley Road, London WC1N 2BQ (telephone 01-242-0641). He will provide, on request, application forms and details of the terms and conditions of appointment.

Applications must be received by 7 June 1988.

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There was a time when partnership was for life. Nowadays, many firms are eager to take on people at partnership level, with or without a following.

Currently, I am instructed by a number of small and medium sized firms in central London to introduce applicants to become immediate salaried or equity partners.

So, if you are at or near partnership level and practicing in company-commercial or commercial property and you would like to consider a move then please contact me: Laurence Simons (solicitor) on 01 242 6644 (01 485 1345 evenings/weekends) or write to LAURENCE SIMONS ASSOCIATES, 33 John's Mews, London, WC1N 2NS. All approaches will be treated in strict confidence.

LAURENCE  
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Applicants should be primarily litigation based and prepared to participate in Chambers' existing areas of expertise. Please reply to

David Kemp Q.C., Gray's Inn Chambers, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5JA.

Replies will be treated in strictest confidence.

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Michael Page Partnership

# Senior Legal Appointments



## Senior Corporate/Commercial Lawyer

If you are looking to join a dynamic and growing medium-sized firm which has already established a highly successful track-record and can offer you high calibre corporate and commercial work, we are looking for you. Early partnership prospects are there for the right person as is the opportunity to influence and contribute to the firm's growth.

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If you would like further information in the first instance please contact Venetia Crow at Michael Page Partnership, Tel: 01-831 2000 or write to her in confidence at 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Planning Potential Partner

An exciting career opportunity has arisen for a senior planning lawyer with this leading City firm.

Liaising closely with the firm's high profile property department, the successful applicant will be responsible for a varied planning workload and for leading and developing this expanding area of practice.

Applications are invited from solicitors with extensive planning experience, gained in private practice or local

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For further information please contact Fiona Cass on 01-831 2000 or write to her at The Legal Division Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Medium Is Beautiful

Our client is a medium sized City firm with an extremely diverse practice and client base. They are investing heavily in education and training and computer systems.

They currently have vacancies in the areas of financial services, pensions, tax, commercial property and intellectual property.

The firm is keen to attract solicitors with two or more years'

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If you would like further information please contact Anna Thorne on 01-831 2000 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Company/Commercial Lawyer

If you are a senior company/commercial lawyer who enjoys considerable autonomy working within a dedicated team you will be interested in this exciting opportunity.

The small company department of this dynamic and innovative City based practice requires enthusiastic, able solicitors with a flair for both private and public company work including acquisitions and disposals, amalgamations, management buyouts and commercial agreements. They offer first class prospects, a convivial

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The successful applicant may be already working in the City but seeking a position with more direct client contact, or perhaps from a larger provincial practice requiring a more commercial environment.

If you feel you fit these requirements please contact Shona McDougall on 01-831 2000 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Company/Commercial Partner

Our client is a thriving Central London commercial practice. Its clientele consists of a range of commercial organisations from public limited companies to individual entrepreneurs.

An exceptional partnership opportunity has arisen for a senior solicitor with City experience to take on a substantial amount of Yellow Book and Blue Book work and develop this area of the firm's practice. The number of its listed company clients is expected to increase particularly by the flotation of several of its substantial private company clients. Other work will include

a broad spread of corporate financial matters including mergers and acquisitions and related tax advice.

Candidates will have more than four years' post-qualification experience. An excellent remuneration package is offered, plus a company car, on partnership.

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We are a thriving commercial law firm seeking an experienced and enthusiastic tax lawyer to run our expanding corporate tax practice.

The position should be of particular interest to applicants with a City or similar background seeking the environment of a smaller firm with considerable potential for growth,

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Please write in confidence with a C.V. to: D. W. Byam-Cook, Bird & Bird, 2 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5AF or Anna Thorne, The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Telephone 01-831 2000.



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## Litigation Partner

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Your experience will need to be broad ranging and your personality suited to this interesting and highly commercial environment.

This is a key position which offers the successful applicant an

opportunity to play a major role within the firm.

If you believe you have the qualities, ambition and drive to ensure success in this demanding position please contact Venetia Crow on 01-831 2000 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Senior Company Lawyer

An ambitious company/commercial solicitor is sought by this well known medium sized London practice to undertake a wide range of interesting work on behalf of public and private companies.

The ideal candidate will have between four and six years' post-qualification experience, preferably gained within a strong company/commercial practice, and will be seeking his or her final career move.

The firm is able to offer both

stimulating work and partnership prospects to the right individual, who will have a strong desire to succeed and will make a positive contribution to the development of the department as a whole.

This position carries a competitive remuneration and benefits package. For further information, please contact Fiona Cass on 01-831 2000 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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## Law Report May 10 1988

## Timing drivers' work and rest periods

## Kelly v Shulman

Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Hutchison (Judgment May 6)

The term "day" in article 6(1) of EEC Regulation 3820/85 meant successive periods of 24 hours beginning with the driver's resumption of driving after his last weekly rest period. Every driver had to have a weekly rest period, as defined in article 8, once in every week, that is, in the period between midnight on Sunday and midnight on the following Sunday.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Patrick Joseph Kelly from his conviction by Bradford Justices of driving when he had not had 45 consecutive hours off after six daily driving periods.

EEC Regulation 3820/85 provides by article 6: "1. The driving period between any two daily rest periods or between a daily rest period and a weekly rest period, called 'daily driving period' shall not exceed nine hours."

"A driver must, after no more than six daily driving periods, take a weekly rest period (which) may be postponed until the end of the sixth day if the total driving time over the six days does not exceed the maximum corresponding to six daily driving periods."

Article 8 provides: "1. In each period of 24 hours, the driver shall have a daily rest period of at least 11 consecutive hours, which may be reduced to a minimum of nine consecutive hours not more than three times in any one week, on condition that an equivalent period of rest be granted as compensation

before the end of the following week."

"3. In the course of each week, one of the rest periods... shall be extended by way of weekly rest, to a total of 45 consecutive hours. This rest period may be reduced... [but] cash reduction shall be compensated by an equivalent rest taken on a day before the end of the third week following the week in question."

"4. A weekly rest period which begins in one week and continues into the following week may be attached to either of these weeks."

Mr Paul Worsley for Mr Kelly; Mr Andrew Woolman for the prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE HUTCHISON, delivering the judgment of the court, said the problems to which this case gave rise had not previously been considered by the courts and this case was regarded as a test case.

It seemed to his Lordship that the key to understanding the interaction between articles 6 and 8 was to appreciate that, whereas restrictions on daily driving were expressed in terms of the maximum length of driving periods between daily rests, the requirements as to daily rests were expressed in terms of minimum daily rest periods in 24 hours.

Mr Kelly began the particular sequence of work and rest periods on Sunday January 4, 1987 at 15.15. From then until 13.00 on Saturday January 10 he worked and rested but all of the rest periods were of less than 24 hours duration.

Mr Kelly was charged with driving a lorry so that he did not have 45 consecutive hours off after six daily driving periods.

The magistrates concluded that "day" in the regulations meant any 24-hour period commencing at midnight. If followed, if they were correct, that the first day of the period ended at 24.00 on that Sunday, and the sixth day at 24.00 on Friday.

They found that Mr Kelly's sixth daily driving period ended on January 10 at 00.30 and that he thereupon became obliged to take a minimum rest period. Accordingly they held that by resuming work and driving at 08.45 on January 10 he broke his rest period.

His Lordship considered that the magistrates were wrong and that a day was any period of 24 hours beginning with the resumption of driving after the last weekly rest period.

The magistrates had justified their conclusion by reference to the definition of "week" in article 1 [defined as the period between 00.00 on Monday and 24.00 on Sunday], but his Lordship found no support for their view in that definition.

The fact the regulations were dealing with an activity which proceeded by day and night militated in favour of a rolling day construction, that is, any successive 24-hour period beginning when the driver resumed driving after a weekly rest period.

The decisive consideration in his Lordship reaching his conclusion was to be found in the words in article 6(1) "if the total driving time over the six days does not exceed the maximum corresponding to six daily driving periods".

The qualification to the basic restriction was contemplating a situation when six daily driving periods had taken place in less

than six days, and was defining circumstances in which the weekly rest period could be postponed to the end of the sixth day. What possible logic was there in such a provision?

His Lordship's conclusions could be summarized as follows:

1 The term "day" in article 6(1) meant successive periods of 24 hours beginning with the driver's resumption of driving after his last weekly rest period.

2 Every driver had to have a weekly rest period, as defined in article 8, once in every week, that is, in the period between midnight on Sunday and midnight on the following Sunday.

3 In certain circumstances the weekly rest period fell to be taken earlier. Thus:

(a) any driver who, in the course of six consecutive driving periods since his last weekly rest period, in the aggregate not less than the maximum number of hours permitted by the regulations in six such periods had to begin a weekly rest immediately on the conclusion of the sixth period; but

(b) any such driver who in those six driving periods had driven for an aggregate of less than the maximum number of hours permitted by the regulations could postpone the commencement of his weekly rest period until the end of the sixth day and drive during the period of postponement provided he did not by so doing increase the aggregate of the hours driven since his last weekly rest to a figure exceeding the maximum number of hours permitted by the regulations in six consecutive daily driving periods.

Solicitors: Ford & Warren, Leeds; Shulmans, Leeds.

But the first, and what might be thought fatal, objection to that claim was the wording of articles 1 and 2 of the Directive that gave protection to the spouse of a national of a member state "who resides in or travels to another member state of the Community either in order to pursue an activity as an employed or self-employed person, or as a recipient of services". The applicant had failed to make out a case that his wife came within those words.

Moreover, the judge had been correct to accept the secretary of state's argument that in any event the European legislation could apply only to cases that had some link with the Community. That principle was clearly stated in the decision of the European Court of Justice in *Morson v State of The Netherlands* (Cases 35/82 and 36/82) ((1982) ECR 3723, 3736) that "the Treaty provisions on freedom of movement for workers and the rules adopted to implement them cannot be applied to cases which have no factor linking them with any of the situations governed by Community law". That principle was well-founded and was applicable to this appeal.

The case was a *fortiori* with that of *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Ahmad Aradi* ((1987) Imm A R 359) — a decision correctly made by Mr Justice Webster in the Divisional Court. Accordingly, the appeal should be dismissed as should the application for referral of the matter to the European Court under article 177 of the EEC Treaty (Cmd 5179-II).

The warning against making a referral stated by Lord Diplock in *Garland v British Rail Engineering Ltd* ((1982) 2 AC 751, 772) in cases where the answer was "too obvious and inevitable to be capable of giving rise to what could properly be regarded as a question within the meaning of article 177" was to be applied.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Alexander & Partners, Willesden; Treasury Solicitor.

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## Pension Lawyers

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Absolute discretion is, of course, assured.

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## LEGAL SELECTION

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Save and Prosper is a major financial services company. A subsidiary of a leading merchant bank, it is active in unit trusts, pensions, life insurance and banking. It now seeks a solicitor to join its in house legal department.

Ideally in their late 20's or early 30's, applicants will have relevant experience of the financial services sector and/or City financial and commercial law. As part of a management team, they must be able to communicate effectively at a senior level.

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Applications forms and information packages are available from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Westcote, UB8 3HW. Telephone: Uxbridge 58589 (24 hour answering service available). Please quote reference number LA/14/88. Closing date 25 May 1988. Interviews will be held on a rolling basis and successful candidates will be notified by letter.

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Friendly, small and successful Fleet Street commercial litigation practice seeks qualified Solicitors to assist in its expansion.

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To find out more about these opportunities please contact PETER REDGROVE on 0695 24242 Ext. 2218 or for further written information and an application form the PERSONNEL SECTION 01-828 7722 Ext 319.

\*Conditions of service include £19 per month Luncheon Vouchers, flexible working hours, a minimum of 27 days annual leave, free Accident and Life Assurance and substantial relocation expenses where appropriate.

Closing Date: 20th May 1988

Legal Officer  
London SW1

Coates Brothers PLC is an international speciality chemicals group, serving principally the graphic arts and surface coatings industries, with a turnover in excess of £300 million.

The Company is entering an exciting new phase in its development and this new appointment is to strengthen the Company Secretarial department based at its Head Office in London. Reporting to the Company Secretary the Legal Officer will be involved in a wide range of activities with particular responsibility for the provision of legal advice to the subsidiary operating companies.

The successful applicant is likely to be late 20s/early 30s, either a solicitor or a Chartered Secretary with a legal qualification, self-motivated with excellent interpersonal skills.

The appointment offers the usual benefits associated with a major company including profit sharing and share option schemes. Relocation assistance available if needed.

Please write in confidence enclosing a full CV to:

Brian Meadows-Smith,  
Divisional Director of Personnel,  
Coates Brothers PLC,  
Cray Avenue,  
St. Mary Cray,  
Orpington, Kent  
BR5 3PP

PART-TIME  
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West End c.£15,000 neg

Having made five acquisitions last year and two this year within a wide area of financial services activities, this rapidly growing merchant bank, and the resulting reorganisation at Group Headquarters, necessitates the appointment of a legally qualified Company Secretary.

Reporting to the Chairman, the successful candidate will be required to undertake the full range of activities associated with the position — however, for the foreseeable future it is envisaged that working hours of 10am-4pm will be appropriate.

Applicants should in the first instance forward a complete CV to: The Deputy Chief Executive, Chancery Securities PLC, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 9PL

CHANCERY SECURITIES PLC  
MERCHANT BANKERS



## City/West End

## LITIGATION

To £30 K

A well-established Central London firm seeks a solicitor admitted for about three years for its commercial litigation department. The workload is varied and includes intellectual property, employment, defamation and banking.

## PLANNING

c. £25 K

A major City practice has an urgent need for a young specialist lawyer, qualified for about two years, to join a friendly and informal group involved in all aspects of town and country planning including development matters.

## EMPLOYMENT

To £26 K

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£ NEG

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An able young solicitor is required by a progressive Central London practice to handle a stimulating company/commercial workload acting for corporate and business clients both here and in other jurisdictions. There are excellent prospects.

## TAX

To £24 K

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## Greater London

## TRUST/PROBATE

£ NEGOTIABLE

For an able young solicitor with a background in trusts/probate the opportunity has arisen to take on and expand the workload of a small but growing department in this respected North London practice.

## COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £25 K

Our client, a small and friendly firm in the North London area urgently requires a competent young solicitor to undertake a wide range of corporate matters on behalf of public and private companies.

## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

£30 K

This medium sized South East London practice seeks a young solicitor to assist with a quality domestic property caseload. The position suits an ambitious individual with a view to early salaried partnership and eventual control of the department.

## Out of London

## MIXED CONVEYANCING

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To £18 K

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## LITIGATION

To £20 K

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## COMMERCIAL

## CONVEYANCING

To £22 K+

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## NON-CONTENTIOUS

c. £18 K

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# A vision of pie in the sky

## SPORT AND TELEVISION

IN THE '90s

Five big events, all live, all happening at once on your TV screen: that is the scenario for 1993. The recent bid by British Satellite Broadcasting for football rights presaged a new era in armchair spectating. Peter Ball, in the first of three previews of the shape of things to come, says the potential for sports-watchers in this revolutionary world is staggering.

The vision is seductive. Bored with Liverpool against Coventry on BBC1? Press the button on your remote control console and you can watch the Italian Cup semi-final: Sampdoria v AC Milan. Another flick, and motor racing from Lisbon fills the screen. On again, and ITV brings you Harlequins against Leicester, the RFU Cup final direct from Twickenham.

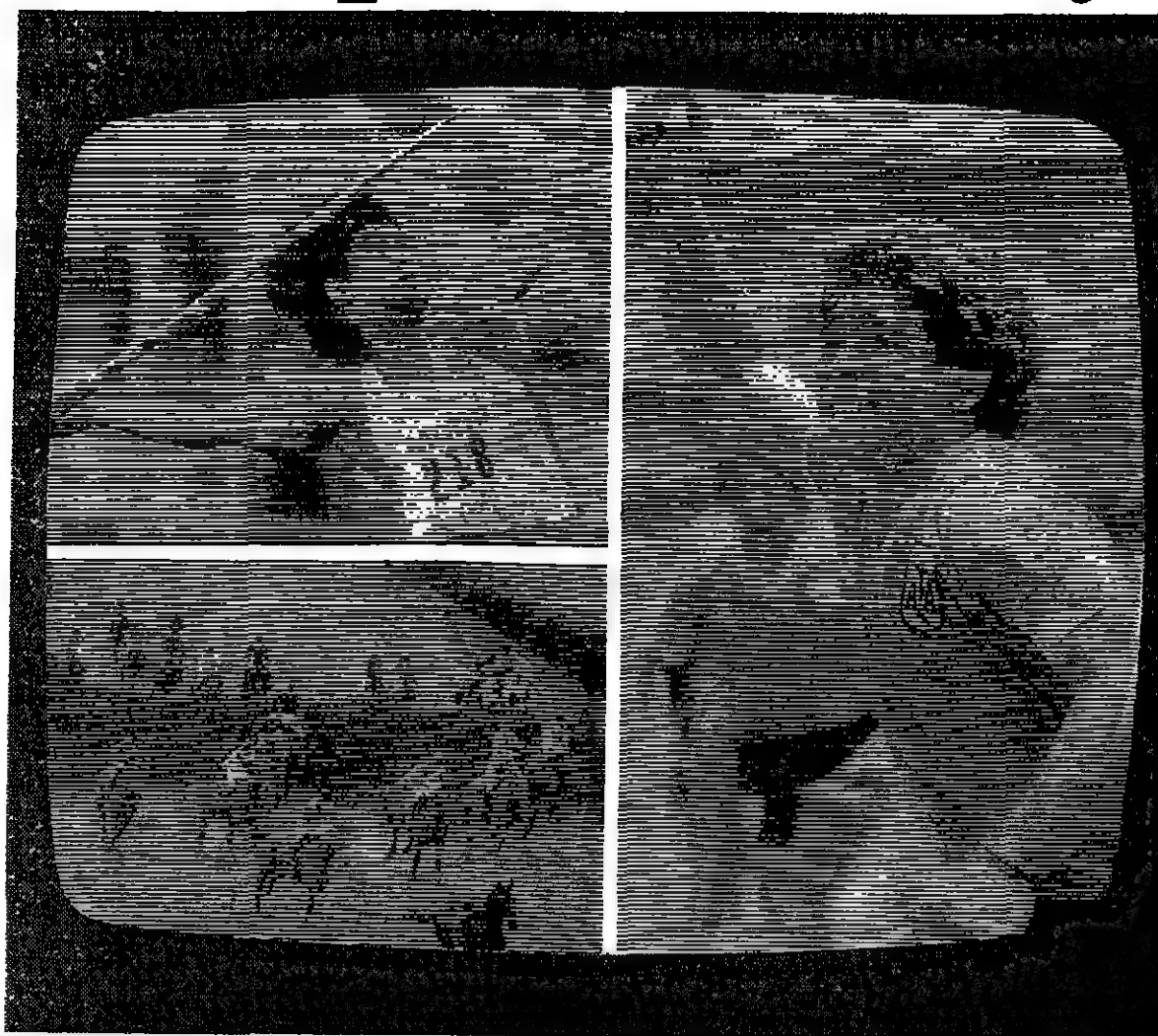
The final round of the US Masters is slightly more complicated, requiring you to get up and push a card into the slot on top of your set, signifying that you will pay to view before the transmission is decoded by the computer inside your set. That done, five big events, all live, all in your living room in the course of Sunday afternoon, are available.

Leaving aside the question of why anyone in his right mind would choose to watch an Italian football match in preference to Liverpool, or even Wimbledon, the potential for sports-watchers in the new free enterprise television world ahead is staggering.

It may take more than five years for the above scenario to be realized, and there are undoubtedly a few hurdles ahead, but there is no doubt that the bid by British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) for the football rights last week heralded a new era in sports television, as well as offering football a new meaning of pie in the sky.

If content is changing dramatically, so will style of presentation, although to what extent is a matter of lively debate among the experts. BBC style, and indeed BBC technology, has come under heavy fire from some quarters. Having been European leaders, possibly world leaders for many years, the British, it is now generally felt, have fallen behind. American football and, humiliatingly, the Australian coverage of cricket are revealing new dimensions that point the way ahead.

"I think the BBC has to take a lot of criticism," Francis Barron, of the satellite all-sports channel, Screensport, said. "Its coverage hasn't changed in five or 10 years, it isn't



The image of sport goes forth and multiplies: for the big stars of the small screen, the vision of the future is bright

using technical advances and it takes conservatism to its limits."

"BBC technology isn't exactly the state of the art," Derek Brandon, of Cheerleader Productions, a constant critic of BBC coverage and producer of several leading Channel 4 sports programmes, including American football, said.

Brandon and Barron agree that the use of more cameras, new angles and much greater information, especially statistics, will be the pattern in five years' time. Brandon selecting tennis as one of the weakest points in the BBC approach.

Brandon's criticisms, which include the need for younger commentators, are accepted to some extent by one establishment figure, including the head of ITV sport, John Bromley, but he points out: "It's all about money. Channel 9 coverage of cricket made the BBC blush. I'm sure they have the talent to do it themselves but you've got to have the money as well. Packer just threw a bundle of money at the problem."

"Rugby could be improved a bit. But increased competition will be very beneficial to the viewer. When the boys are competing it means everybody's thinking. In tennis there is no competition, so the BBC coverage is competent but very traditional."

That will change. By the national date of 1993, there will be three satellite or cable channels devoted entirely or largely to sport, with at least one more maintaining sports scheduling in its mix. Alongside them will be the established networks.

ITV (deregulation and new franchises permitting) and BBC1 are intending to maintain their high profile in covering the big sporting events, market forces permitting. BBC2 and Channel 4 also have to be considered and there is the possibility of further competition from a new Channel 5.

It will be very competitive in the market-place, with satellites and

established networks between them ensuring that the viewer at home will be able to see all the main sport from Europe and America to a far greater degree than at present.

Some changes are beginning to happen. For those linked to cable, the specialist channel, Screensport, and to a lesser extent the two general channels, Sky and Super, are already offering the serious sports follower a wider service than he has enjoyed before.

Saturation coverage, which the BBC manages only for Test matches, Wimbledon and the Open Championship, and ITV struggles to manage at all, can confidently be expected to extend over a host of events worldwide when the three sports channels, Screensport, Eurosport and BSB's Now, are in operation.

In the face of this challenge, the main networks will be forced to respond. They are already doing so. ITV has recently changed its approach, buying athletics and gymnastics and competing strongly for rugby in the search for a more up-market audience to satisfy its advertisers.

For some of the time coverage by the satellite stations will be complementary, offering the live early rounds of a network-transmitted final, or second and possibly even third showings of big events first shown live.

There will also be changes in the traditional structure. "We'll see football matches played for television only, or games pulled out of the fixture list and played on Monday night or Thursday night. There's nothing to stop Liverpool v Manchester United being moved to Monday night if they come up with enough money for it," Mike Murphy, of the leading independent producers, TSL (Television Sport and Leisure), said. "And then the network can show a recording of it at 11 p.m."

That suggestion is unlikely to appeal to Bromley, whose new philosophy has led him to dismiss recorded

highlights as a thing of the past. Paul Docherty, head of sport at Granada, profoundly disagrees, still finding a place and an audience for a regional "big match" in his scheduling, while such a trend-setter as Brandon argues that a revamped package would be hugely successful, believing that the highlights will continue to have their place firmly in the Nineties' sports coverage.

But what else can we look forward to? BSB intends to include a sports *News at Ten*, with results, action clips and a comprehensive news service. It also hopes to show personality profiles, star interviews, chat shows and well-researched investigative documentaries. "We will do what popular newspapers do for sport at the moment and television fails to tackle," Bob Hunter, the managing director of BSB's Now channel, said.

Following Brandon's suggestion, the American sports packages of recorded highlights of baseball, basketball and ice hockey will also undoubtedly become a staple diet for the satellite channels, especially through the night.

Alan Pascoe believes that educational sports films will play a part but Murphy fears that late-night fillers will be the only slow open to traditional minority sports as commercial pressures force even the BBC to cut back its public service commitment.

Such star sports as snooker and darts may also find themselves squeezed as audience profiles play an increasingly important role in programming, while the openings for new popular successes will expand. Volleyball, handball and cycling, all popular in Europe, have their advocates while Brandon has a sneaking feeling for polo.

## TOMORROW

The men behind the revolution

## STUDENT SPORT

### Building the road to São Paulo

The vision of the British Students Sports Federation (BSSF), coupled with the enthusiasm of the city of Sheffield, convinced the international governing body for student sport (FISU), of which Dr Primo Nebiolo is the president, that the South Yorkshire city had the pedigree to stage the 1991 Student Games (Yuri Matushenko writes).

Much is being done in Sheffield to ensure success but before 1991, São Paulo, Brazil, plays host to the 1989 Games.

To show the commitment of Britain and Sheffield, the BSSF is aiming to send a team of 200 to compete in 10 sports, including athletics, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, judo, football, tennis, volleyball, and water polo.

The cost, including a modest preparation programme, is in the region of £250,000 and the federation is to launch various long-term sponsorship packages with the help of the Keith Prowse agency. An approach to the Sports Council has also been made and it is hoped that the draw of the Sheffield games will provide justification for substantial support.

A sponsorship deal has al-

ready been effected with STA Travel, a world student travel organization, and the increasing support shown for students by several governing bodies of sport who see the games as a stepping-stone to the Olympics is a further encouragement.

At this stage, however, nothing is certain. Athletics of the calibre of Jonathan Ridgeon, the 110 metres hurdles world silver medal winner, and Jamie Henderson, junior 100 metres champion of Europe, may well have to make substantial personal contributions for the right to represent Britain in São Paulo.

## RACING

### Derby contenders escape as illness hits Hern stable

Dick Hern, quoted as low as 6-4 to train the winner of the Ever Ready Derby at Epsom next month, yesterday revealed that several of his string are running temperatures.

The West Herts trainer has the first three in the Derby betting in some lists - Unfuwain, Emmson and Chatter - but none of these has been affected. "In view of the fact that there are several fancied runners for the Derby in my stable," Hern said, "I think it is only fair to the general public to let them know that a certain number of horses in my yard are running temperatures. So far none of the Derby probabilities are affected and the condition does not appear to be serious."

Emmson, backed substantially over the past few days, makes his seasonal reappearance in the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York tomorrow. A fourth possible from the stable, Minster Son, is due to contest the

Predominate Stakes at Goodwood next week.

Graham Sharpe, of bookmakers William Hill, said: "It would be an over-reaction to change our Derby betting at the moment, but if the situation were to worsen we would take another look at it."

Unfuwain, successful in last week's Dalham Chester Vase, is currently 5-2 favourite for the Derby, with Emmson 8-1 and Chatter 13-1.

Half A Year, unbeaten in his three races last season including the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot, after which he fractured a cannon bone, is one of seven four-day declarations for the £40,000-added Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on Friday.

His trainer, Luca Cumani, has also entered Media Stager, the winner of the Earl of Sefton Stakes at the Newmarket Craven Meeting, and a powerful

acceptance is completed by Broken Hearted, Patriarch, Prince Rupert, Wajib and the sole three-year-old Lapiere.

Jack Berry, whose two-year-olds have been in tremendous form this season, has his eyes on Royal Ascot following the victory of Almost Blue in the Strawberry Hill Stakes at Pontefract yesterday.

"He'll go for the Coventry Stakes," Berry said, "but before that he'll probably run in a conditions race at Ripon next week. At 22,000 guineas this was the most expensive yearling I have bought."

Berry was also on the mark with another juvenile, Wason's Me in the Coventry Stakes at Wetherhampton, where Henry Cecil, who has made a somewhat faltering start to the season, saddled newcomer Bespoke to beat the favourite, the 10-1 favourite in the Watling Street EBF Fillies Stakes.

## TOWCESTER

### Selections

By Mandarin  
6.0 Pharoah's Lark, 6.30 Whiskey Eyes, 7.0  
Favourite, 7.30 Joist, 8.30 Ride High, 8.30 Gods  
Fox.

### Going: good to firm

6.0 GREENS NORTON NOVICES HANDICAP  
HURDLE (E885: 3m 56yd) (18 runners)

1 FORD PHAROAH'S LARK 5 (5) M Pige 7-12-1 (7m)

2 0041 MASTER MUCK 15 (3) N Tuleton Dervie 5-11-1 (7m)

3 0041 INLAND PEARL 15 (3) N Wamp 6-11-1 (7m)

4 0043 GREYHORN 15 (3) N Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

5 0043 CYGNETS BEST 12 (7) Casey 5-11-1 (7m)

6 0043 DEL MAR 3 N Thick 5-11-1 (7m)

7 0043 WATERGLASS 22 (5) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

8 0043 THE LORDS TAVEN 14 (1) Gifford 5-11-1 (7m)

9 0043 RAPAGARI 22 (5) Bailey 5-11-1 (7m)

10 0043 EL CYTO 12 (7) N Middel 11-10-13 (7m)

11 0043 PAUL JONES 11 (1) F Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

12 0043 CHANCE BURY 30 (5) Nash 5-11-1 (7m)

13 0043 PORTWAT ANNA 30 (5) M Scammon 5-11-1 (7m)

14 0043 STEVEN 12 (7) R Cote 5-11-1 (7m)

15 0043 GANZONATE 15 (3) D Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

16 0043 BENNY'S EYES 15 (3) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

17 0043 PHAROAH'S LARK 5 (5) M Pige 7-12-1 (7m)

18 0043 MASTER MUCK 15 (3) N Tuleton Dervie 5-11-1 (7m)

19 0043 INLAND PEARL 15 (3) N Wamp 6-11-1 (7m)

20 0043 GREYHORN 15 (3) N Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

21 0043 CYGNETS BEST 12 (7) Casey 5-11-1 (7m)

22 0043 DEL MAR 3 N Thick 5-11-1 (7m)

23 0043 WATERGLASS 22 (5) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

24 0043 THE LORDS TAVEN 14 (1) Gifford 5-11-1 (7m)

25 0043 RAPAGARI 22 (5) Bailey 5-11-1 (7m)

26 0043 EL CYTO 12 (7) N Middel 11-10-13 (7m)

27 0043 PAUL JONES 11 (1) F Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

28 0043 CHANCE BURY 30 (5) Nash 5-11-1 (7m)

29 0043 PORTWAT ANNA 30 (5) M Scammon 5-11-1 (7m)

30 0043 STEVEN 12 (7) R Cote 5-11-1 (7m)

31 0043 GANZONATE 15 (3) D Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

32 0043 BENNY'S EYES 15 (3) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

33 0043 PHAROAH'S LARK 5 (5) M Pige 7-12-1 (7m)

34 0043 MASTER MUCK 15 (3) N Tuleton Dervie 5-11-1 (7m)

35 0043 INLAND PEARL 15 (3) N Wamp 6-11-1 (7m)

36 0043 GREYHORN 15 (3) N Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

37 0043 CYGNETS BEST 12 (7) Casey 5-11-1 (7m)

38 0043 DEL MAR 3 N Thick 5-11-1 (7m)

39 0043 WATERGLASS 22 (5) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

40 0043 THE LORDS TAVEN 14 (1) Gifford 5-11-1 (7m)

41 0043 RAPAGARI 22 (5) Bailey 5-11-1 (7m)

42 0043 EL CYTO 12 (7) N Middel 11-10-13 (7m)

43 0043 PAUL JONES 11 (1) F Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

44 0043 CHANCE BURY 30 (5) Nash 5-11-1 (7m)

45 0043 PORTWAT ANNA 30 (5) M Scammon 5-11-1 (7m)

46 0043 STEVEN 12 (7) R Cote 5-11-1 (7m)

47 0043 GANZONATE 15 (3) D Sander 5-11-1 (7m)

48 0043 BENNY'S EYES 15 (3) Harts 5-11-1 (7m)

49 0043 PHAROAH'S LARK 5 (5) M Pige 7-12-1 (7m)

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84 0043 GREYHORN 15 (3) N Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

85 0043 CYGNETS BEST 12 (7) Casey 5-11-1 (7m)

## 7.30 POTTERSBURY NOVICES HANDICAP

CHASE (E1,088: 3m 150yd) (13)

1 0000 TOPHATTER 8 (3) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

2 0000 FAST ESCAPE 14 (5) J Gifford 7-11-1 (7m)

3 0000 REDGATE ROSE 14 (5) Gifford 7-11-1 (7m)

4 0000 PELON 9 (5) J King 5-11-1 (7m)

5 0000 JOIST 8 (5) M Pige 5-11-1 (7m)

6 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

7 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

8 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

9 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

10 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

11 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

12 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

13 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

14 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

15 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

16 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

17 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

18 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

19 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

20 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

21 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

22 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11-1 (7m)

23 0000 LIGHT SONG 12 (7) J Wharton 5-11-1 (7m)

24 0000 MAREK 8 (5) J Wharton 7-11-1 (7m)

25 0000 CONQUEST 10 (5) R Hobbs 5-11















